

William

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T H E

Neoham

HISTORY and ANTIQUITIES

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CIRENCESTER.

I N C L U D I N G T H E

A.

CIVIL and MILITARY AFFAIRS

OF THAT ANTIENT TOWN;

W I T H

Some ACCOUNT of the ABBEY and ABBATS;

AND OF THE DESCENT OF THE

MANOR and HUNDRED of CIRENCESTER,

FROM THE CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

Illustrated with two Copper Plates.

C I R E N C E S T E R :

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P R E F A C E.

THIS little piece is part of a larger work in Folio, entituled A NEW HISTORY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE. It is offered to the public upon the presumption that some persons may wish to purchase it, who would not be at the expence of the book from whence it is taken. And the publication at this time may be thought not unseasonable, as among the many antiquities of this place, herein is a particular description of the remains of a Roman Hypocaust, which is just now laid open for the gratification of the curious. It was taken from a manuscript in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, given to that university by the late archdeacon Furney. Sir Robert Atkyns also, and Dr. Stukeley, give some account of the same remains.

Respecting the compilation in general, the Editor has only to say, that what is taken from other writers he has faithfully extracted, and quoted his authority: And submitting his performance to the public, will just observe, that as places and things remain not long in the same state, so the alterations and discoveries made since some part of this account was printed, render the following corrections and additions necessary.

In p. 7, the street leading to Gloucester is said to be a hollow way, as it really was when that part went to press; but it has since been filled up, and made more commodious.

At p. 23, mention is made of the discovery of several mosaic pavements, to which should be added, That in May, 1777, in digging a cellar in Dyer-street, now under the warehouse belonging to Mess. Robert and William Croome, the workmen discovered a curious tessellated pavement, about eighteen feet square, of which they had destroy'd nearly half before it was taken notice of. The remainder was in good preservation, and being washed and cleansed, was exposed for a few days to public view. It had a chequered border round, about fourteen inches broad, composed of blue and white stones of about an inch square. Within the border it consisted of blue and white stones also, and of red bricks, but of much smaller squares, worked into wreaths and other ornaments. It was divided into four compartments by the artful arrangement and disposition of the different coloured materials into lines of hearts linked together, and interlaced fretwise, which had a very pretty effect. The center of the pavement is still preserved. It consists of an octagon border, inclosing a wreathed figure with rays pointed to the angles of the octagon. There was also a smaller figure, of the same kind, in the middle of each compartment; and the pavement together
had

had very much the resemblance of a rich carpet, the first idea of which, I apprehend, was suggested by a work of this kind. This pavement lay about six feet below the surface of the ground ; and there remained also part of the plaistered walls of the room, which appeared to have been painted ; but the figures were so decayed by time, that it was impossible to form any idea of the subject. It is very remarkable that one corner of the pavement was presented to the street, and that about eight or ten yards on the north side of it, the workmen found an old road made of lime and gravel, (nearly on a level with the pavement, and parallel to it) which seemed to be a part of the Roman *Foss*, and lay directly in a line with the two branches of it at the east and west ends of the town. From these and other circumstances it appears, that antiently the streets of the town lay much lower, and in different directions from what they do at present. This was undoubtedly a Roman work, and must be referred to the last mentioned order of pavements, in the short account of them at p. 24.

At p. 26, the editor has given Mr. Camden's opinion why the *Irminstreet*, one of the consular ways which passes through Cirencester, was so called ; and here he begs leave to offer a conjecture of his own, that the name has no relation to Mercury, as that great antiquary supposed, but may be very well explained from the language of
our

our ancestors; and since *þepe* in the Anglo-Saxon signifies an *army*, and *þepeman* a *soldier*, it seems pretty clear that *Irminstreet* signifies the *Soldiers Road*, and is nothing more than the term *via militaris* translated into that language.

The death of the late earl Bathurst renders the following alterations necessary: Instead of what is found after the first line, p. 48, to the end of the paragraph, read thus, She sold them in the year 1695, to sir Benjamin Bathurst, father of the late Allen earl Bathurst, who dying, was succeeded in title and estates by his lordship's only surviving son, Henry earl Bathurst, who is lord of the manor and hundred of Cirencester, and likewise of the Seven Hundreds, by an accommodation, as to the latter, between his lordship and other claimants. The late earl Bathurst died and was buried at Cirencester, where there is a monument erected for him and his lady in the parish church, with their busts in white marble, and a weeping genius between them. Upon the tablet is the following inscription:

Near this Place are deposited the Remains of
ALLEN EARL BATHURST, and CATHERINE LADY BATHURST.

In the Legislative & Judicial departments
Of the great Council of the Nation he served his
Country 69 Years, wth honour, ability & diligence.

Judgment & taste directed his Learning,
Humanity tempered his Wit,

Benevolence guided all his Actions.

He died regretted by most, & praised by all,
The 16th day of September, 1775, aged 91.

Catherine

Catherine his Consort, by her milder Virtues,
 added Lustre to his great Qualities ;
 Her domestic Oeconomy extended his Liberality,
 Her judicious Charity his Munificence,
 Her prudent government of her family, his hospitality.
 She received the reward of her Exemplary life
 The 8th day of June, 1768, aged 79.

Married July the 6th. 1704.

Beneath the table are the following arms : Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Bathurst ; 2d and 3d, *Argent, on a cross of St. George gules five escallops Or*, for Villiers. A scutcheon of pretence, quarterly, 1st and 4th, *Barry of six argent and gules, a canton ermine*, for Apsley ; 2d and 3d, *Gules, a bend between two escallops Or*, for Petre. — The crest, supporters, and motto are set down in the short genealogical account of his lordship's family, p. 51.

P. 49, l. 1, for *lordship*, read, *Allen earl Bathurst*.

P. 53, l. 16, for *the noble proprietor*, read, *the late Allen earl Bathurst*. And observe, that wherever the title *earl of Bathurst* occurs, the word *of* should be omitted.

Lastly, in the account of population, p. 105, l. 15, for 3878, read 3988 ; which error was occasioned by the inhabitants of the workhouse being totally omitted.

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T H E
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
O F
C I R E N C E S T E R.

CIRENCESTER is a market and borough-town, in the county of Gloucester, situate in Latitude $51^{\circ} 13' 30''$ Longitude 90 miles west from London. It is thirty-six miles distant eastward from Bristol, and thirty-three from Bath; thirty-four westward from Oxford, seventeen south-east from Gloucester, and seven north-west from Cricklade in Wiltshire.

The parish, consisting of a due proportion of meadow and pasture, arable and woodland, is about four miles and a half long, and two and a half broad.

The town is situated on the borders of the Coteshwold country, in the south-east part of the county, where three great Roman roads meet,
B the

the *Foss*, the *Irminstreet*, and the *Ikenild-way*. It stands on the river *Ceri*, or *Cori*, or *Corin*¹, which we now call the *Churn*, and takes its name from that river^m; for the Britons called it *Caer-Ceri*ⁿ, and *Caer-Cori*^o; in whose language *caer*, which in its genuine sense should be translated a *wall*, or *fortress*, came at length, when used in the composition of the names of places, to signify a *walled* or *fortified town*.

The Roman name of this place was framed from the British; Ptolomy calls it *Corinium*, Antoninus *Duro-Cornovium*, probably from *dwr*, the British word for *water*. The latter name seems to be most expressive, yet both signify the town upon the water or river *Corin*.

The Anglo-Saxons, either from the British, or from the Roman name, called the town *Lopneceartpe*, *Lupineceartpe*^p, *Lypenceartpe*; upon which I shall once more observe, that *ceartpe*

¹ Dr. Howell's History of the World, Part 4, p. 171. — *Coryn* in the British language signifies the *top*, and is very properly apply'd to this river, because it is the highest source of the Thames.

^m Eorum vero [i. e. *Dobunorum*] prima civitas fuit *Corinium*, à *Corino* fluvio vicino sic appellata. Britannicè dicta est *Cair Keri*, vel rectius *Cori*. Saxonice autem *Churncestre*: deinde et *Cirencester*: at nunc, ablata media vocabuli parte, *Cicestre*. Hic ingens vis numismatum imaginibus Cæsarum, lege Britannis imposita, signatorum reperiuntur. Paucis ab hinc annis ibidem erutæ inter mœniorum rudera tabulæ Ro. literis inscriptæ. *Lelandi Itin.* v. 9, p. 32, sub verbo *Dobuni*.

ⁿ Asser de Reb. Gest. Ælfredi, p. 35, Ed. Wise.

^o Lambard's Description of England.

^p Lambard, p. 259.

is nothing more than a translation of the British word *caer* into the Saxon language. The name of the town, as it is now written, stands at the head of this account, but the present common appellation is *Ciceter*.

On a near approach to the town, there is a gentle descent every way, except from the south. The air is so remarkably pure and salubrious, that a physician, who settled here about forty years since, after staying a time sufficient, as he thought, to make trial of his success, pronounced it impossible for one of his profession to subsist on the practice the town and its neighbourhood afforded. The water is sufficiently pure and pleasant, rising in a fine gravel, about fourteen or fifteen feet below the surface, and almost every house has a pump.

The town consists of eleven streets, besides lanes and alleys. *Dyer-street*, but more antiently *Chipping-street*, so called because the market is held in it, is that by which you enter the town from London and Oxford. From the round stone at the bottom of it to the other extremity, at the crossing of the four principal streets, it measures 549 yards.—*Cricklade-street* is so called because it leads to the antient town whose name it bears. From a stone which marks the limits of the borough on that side, at the bottom of the street, to the other extremity, it measures 360 yards.—*Castle-street*, which name was given it

from its leading to the antient castle, is that by which you enter the town from Bristol and Bath, and is 274 yards long.—*Gosditch-street*, leading from the middle of the town northward to the first bridge towards Gloucester, is in length 180 yards.—*Dollar-street*, or in old writings, *Le Fosse*, commencing at the first bridge, and extending to the second, on the same road, is 190 yards long.—*St. Lawrence-street*, or *Gloucester-street*, was so called because the church of St. Lawrence stood in it, and because it leads to Gloucester. This street is 427 yards long.—*Cecily-street*, or *Cecily-bill*, took its name from the church of St. Cecilia standing in it. From Groomstole-bridge, where this street begins, to the end of it, leading to Minchin-hampton, it is 190 yards.—*Black-jack-street*, which leads from Groomstole-bridge, and seems like a continuation of the last mentioned street, is in length 300 yards.—*Silver-street*, making the communication between Black-jack-street and Castle-street, is in length only 75 yards.—*Thomas-street* had its appellation from an hospital standing in it, dedicated to the saint of that name, and, extending from Groomstole-bridge to the bottom of Dollar-street, is 227 yards long.—*Coxwell-street* was so called from the name of a person of considerable property who lived in it; but the more antient name is *Abbat-street*, which was given it because it led to the abbey. This street is 221 yards long.—*Shoe-lane*, (so called from the shoe-

shoe-makers settling there) the *Butter-row*, and the *Butcher-row*, lie parallel to each other on the west side of the corn-market, whence the two latter lead to the high-cross, and are 33 yards long.— Besides these, there are *Sheep-street-lane*, on the south-west side of the town; *Spital-gate-lane*, corruptly called *Spiringate-lane*, on the north side of it; *Leause-lane* on the south-east, and the *Law-ditch-lane* on the west side of it.

Coming into the town from Gloucester, a great part of the street is a hollow way, in some places five feet deep, where a portion of the Churn water runs, and empties itself into one of the arms of that river at the second bridge. There is a tradition that the river antiently ran through the middle of the town, which is strengthened by a passage in Leland, who says, *Be lykehod yn times past Guttas were made that Partes of Churne Streame might cum thorow the Cyte, and so to retorne to theyr great Bottom.* Itin. v. 5, p. 61. And not many years since, as the workmen were digging a vault under the street, near where the four principal streets meet, at about the depth of six feet under the surface, they found stones set up edge-ways, like those commonly placed in a water-course, for people to step on. This circumstance, I think, puts the matter out of doubt, that antiently the water ran through the town by the high cross, and so down Cricklade-street, and at length joined the main river at Watermore.

There

There is a great deal of travelling through this place from the northern to the western parts of England, and from Bath and Bristol to London, through Oxford and Abingdon. Two stage-coaches pass thro' it to London, and another in its course between Bath and Oxford; which, with a great number of heavy carriages that keep their regular stages, open a communication between this place and Monmouthshire, South Wales, Hereford, Gloucester, Worcester, Warwick, Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham, the West, and many other places; a circumstance so favourable to trade, that, next to Gloucester, this is esteemed the principal market-town in the county.

It has two weekly markets, on Monday and Friday. The first, for grain and all sorts of commodities, is very much frequented; the other is chiefly for wool, butchers-meat, and poultry. The wool-market was once very considerable, 'till the dealers in that article began to travel the country, and buy their wool at the farm-houses, which at length had this effect, that instead of thirty or forty waggon-loads, which used to be brought hither every market-day, there are not now more than one or two such loads sent weekly for public sale.

Frequent oppositions in the borough, in choosing their representatives in parliament, have made the poor inhabitants more licentious, and less industrious, than they formerly were. These circumstances are unfavourable to manufactures,
and

and generally prevent them from rising to any degree of eminence. Formerly the cloathing business flourished here^a, but at present little is done in that manufacture. The heavy edge-tools of this place are in great reputation. Indeed this is the only place in Europe where those knives are made which curriers use for shaving the leather, I mean to answer the purpose, for they have been attempted at Birmingham and other places. The business of wool-combing is on the decline. Carpet making hath been lately introduced with some success; but stocking frame-knitting, and the making of chenies, harrateens, and other light stuffs, have gained but little ground since the first introduction of those manufactures, about thirty years ago. The principal business is woolstapling and yarn-making, for which the town is well situated, near the cloathing country.

This is called an antient city, and, according to the opinion of some persons, of so high antiquity as to have been built by the Britons before the Roman invasion. But that the Britons had then any cities or towns, in the sense we now understand those terms, is a notion very contrary to the testimony of antient authors of the greatest credit as to that matter. Cæsar^r indeed speaks of their

^a Leland speaking of the fulling-mills at Cirencester, says, *They be wonderfully necessary, bycause the town standith alle by Clothing.* Itin. v. 2, p. 23.

^r De Bello Gallico, l. v, c. 21, p. 120.

towns, but he tells us what they were ; *Oppidum autem Britanni vocant quum silvas impeditas vallo atque fossa munierunt.* The Britons call that a town, when they have surrounded and fenced about their thickest woods with a bank and a ditch. And Xiphilin speaking of the *Mæata*, or inhabitants of the now most northern counties of England, asserts, that they had neither *walls* nor *cities* ; what passed under the name of *cities* in Britain, being, according to Strabo, no other than *groves*. These authorities will stand their ground against the fond conceits and loose conjectures of later writers ; and upon this ground I shall venture to say that Cirencester was built by the Romans. The precise time of its foundation I do not pretend to ascertain, but I apprehend it might be very soon after they had established themselves in Britain. Three great roads meeting at this place rendered it the most desirable situation for a town that can be conceived, and no doubt that circumstance induced them to make choice of it.

Being the metropolis of the large province of the *Dobuni*, it was called *Corinium Dobunorum*, and became a very eminent station for the Roman armies. Antoninus places it at the distance of fourteen miles from *Glevum*, or Gloucester, in the thirteenth iter from *Isca*, now Caerleon in Monmouthshire, to *Calleva*, which Dr. Gale will have to be Henley, the *Calleva Attrebatum*, or chief city of the *Attrebatii*, whilst others give that honour to Wallingford in Berkshire.

The

The wall and ditch which inclosed the old city were more than two miles in circumference. Dr. Stukeley, about the year 1723, traced them quite round, as Leland had done before him; but even in Leland's time there were but few vestiges of the wall remaining;

. *Sic omnia fatis*

In pejus ruere, ac retro sublapsa referri. Virg.

He tells us, that ' A man may yet, walking
' on the bank of Churne, evidently perceyve
' the cumpace of foundation of towers sum-
' tyme standing in the waul. And nere to
' the place wher the right goodly clothing mylle
' was set up a late by the abbate, was broken
' down the ruine of an old tower toward making
' of the mylle waulles, in the which place was
' fownd a quadrate stone fawllen down afore, but
' broken *in aliquot frustra*, wherein was a Romain
' inscription, of the which, one scanty letterd
' that saw yt, told me, that he might perceyve
' PONT. MAX. Among divers *numismata* fownd
' frequently there, Dioclesian's be most fairest; but
' I cannot adfirme the inscription to have bene
' dedicate onto hym. In the middes of the old
' town in a medow was found a flore *de tessellis*
' *versicoloribus*, and by the town *nostris temporibus*
' was fownd a broken shank bone of a horse, the
' mouth closed with a pegge; the which taken
' owt, a shepard found yt fillid *nummis argenteis*.
' In the fowth-south-west side of the waul be

‘lykelyhod hath bene a castel, or sum other great
 ‘building, the hilles and diches yet remayne. The
 ‘place is now a waren for conys, and therin hath
 ‘be fownd mennes bones *insolitæ magnitudinis*,
 ‘also to sepulchres *ex secto lapide*. In one was a
 ‘round vessel of leade covered, and in it ashes and
 ‘peaces of bones.’ Thus far *Leland*.

The wall and gates were intire in the reign of king Henry the Fourth, but ’tis uncertain when they were thrown down. At present great part of the foundation is visible on the east and south sides of the town, but covered with earth, and overgrown with thorns and bushes. In the year 1774, a part being uncovered, it was found to be eight feet thick, and about three feet high, built with hewn stone, strongly cemented with lime and sand. The greatest part of the wall has been levelled by improvements in agriculture.

The beautiful Roman pavements, the square stones with PONT MAX. and other inscriptions upon them; the Roman coins, rings, and intaglios which have been found here in such abundance, all bear testimony to the antient grandeur of this place. A great part of the ground within the old city wall, south-east of the town, called the *Leaufes*, is now pasture and garden-ground. Dr. Stukeley supposes this spot, from the name and other circumstances, to have been the Roman *Prætorium*, or head magistrate’s quarters; for *llys*, in the British language, signifies a *court*.

‘Large

‘ Large quantities of carved stones,’ says he, ‘ are
 ‘ carried off yearly in carts [meaning from this
 ‘ place] to mend the highways, besides what are
 ‘ useful in building.

‘ A fine mosaic pavement was dug up here in
 ‘ September 1723, with many coins. I bought a
 ‘ little head, which had been broken off from a
 ‘ basso-relievo, and seems, by the tiara, of a very
 ‘ odd shape, like fortification-work, to have been
 ‘ the genius of a city, or some of the *Dæ Matres*
 ‘ which are in old inscriptions, such like in *Gruter*,
 ‘ p. 92. The gardiner told me he had lately found
 ‘ a fine little brass image, I suppose one of the
 ‘ *Lares*; but upon a diligent scrutiny, his children
 ‘ had played it away. Mr. Richard Bishop,
 ‘ owner of the garden, on a hillock near his house,
 ‘ dug up a vault sixteen feet long, and twelve
 ‘ broad, supported with square pillars of Roman
 ‘ brick, three feet and a half high, and on it a
 ‘ strong floor of terras. There are now several
 ‘ more vaults near it, on which grow cherry trees,
 ‘ like the hanging gardens of Babylon. I suppose
 ‘ these the foundations of a temple, for in the
 ‘ same place they found several stones of the shafts
 ‘ of pillars, six feet long, and bases of stone near
 ‘ as big in compass as his summer-house adjoining,
 ‘ as he expressed himself; these, with cornices
 ‘ very handsomely moulded, and carved with
 ‘ modillions and the like ornaments, were con-
 ‘ verted into swines-troughs. Some of the stones

‘ of the bases were fastened together with cramps
‘ of iron, so that they were forced to employ horses
‘ to draw them asunder, and they now lie before
‘ the door of his house as a pavement. Capitals
‘ of these pillars were likewise found, and a crook-
‘ ed cramp of iron, ten or twelve feet long, which
‘ probably was for the architraves of a circular
‘ portico. A mosaic pavement near it, and intire,
‘ is now the floor of his privy vault.’

A portion of one of these pillars, and the capital of a pilaster, of the Corinthian order, perhaps the very pieces the doctor saw, are now in tolerable preservation in Mr. Bush’s garden. The shaft of this pillar must have been at least twelve feet long, independent of the capital and other members.

In the Leauses also, as the workmen were clearing away the stones and rubbish in the year 1683, they discovered, about four feet under the surface of the ground, a building of fifty feet long, forty broad, and four, or, according to another account, six feet high, supported with near a hundred brick pillars. Large iron bars, upon which hung a great number of brick pipes or funnels, were laid from pillar to pillar. The floor was paved with broad bricks, and the roof, which was flat, covered with the same materials, in many parts of which were flews, or draught-holes; and on the top of all was a coat of terras near a foot thick. This was certainly the beginning

ning of an hypocaust; for the Romans, to whom this building may reasonably be attributed, were very fond of bathing. Dr. Stukeley mentions this hypocaust, but without describing it. Speaking further of this place he says, ‘ Sometimes they dig up little stones as big as a shilling, with stamps on them. I conjecture they are counterfeit dies to cast money in. We saw a monumental inscription upon a stone of Mr. Isaac Tibbot’s in Castle-street, in very large letters, four inches long’.

‘ It was found at a place half a mile west of the town, upon the north side of the Foss-road, called the Querns, from the quarries of stone thereabouts. Five such stones lay flatwise upon two walls, in a row,



‘ end to end, and underneath were the corpses of that family, as we may suppose. He keeps Julia Casta’s skull in his summer-house, but people have stole all her teeth out, for amulets against the ague. Another of the stones serves

* This stone also stands in the garden-wall of Thomas Bush, esq; in Cirencester.

‘ for a table in his garden; ’tis handsomely
‘ squared, five feet long, and three and a half
‘ broad, without any inscription. Another is
‘ laid for a bridge over a chanel near the cross in
‘ Castle-street. There were but two of them
‘ which had inscriptions; the other inscription
‘ perished, being unluckily exposed to the wet in a
‘ frosty season, probably of the husband. Several
‘ urns have been found thereabouts, being a com-
‘ mon burying-place. I suppose them buried
‘ here after Christianity’. *Itineraria Curiosa*.

A fine figure of Apollo in Corinthian brass, of the height of eighteen inches, was found in the same gardens about forty years since, and is now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, by the favour of Thomas Master, esq; who presented it to the university. And a small altar, about seven inches high, was thrown up among the rubbish a few years since, but there is no inscription on it. This is now in Mr. Bush’s possession, and was probably the portable altar of some poor man, used only in the offering of incense or salt flour, such as Camden mentions in his account of Lancashire, adding, that the Romans raised altars not only to their Gods, but out of a servile flattery, to their emperors likewise, under the impious title of *Numini Majestatique eorum*. At these they fell on their knees and worshipped, these they embraced and prayed to, before these they took their oaths, and to be short, in these and their sacrifices the whole

whole of their religion consisted; so that those among them who had no altar, were supposed to have no religion, and to acknowledge no deity.

There is also a monumental stone, now placed in a building in the garden belonging to Siddington house, which was dug up, about fourteen or fifteen years since, at Watermore common, just without the city wall. It has a pediment at top, with a crescent in low relief, and the following inscription:

D M
P VICANAE
P VITALIS
CONIVX (')

Lying by the stone was an urn, with ashes and bones half burnt. This stone may be referred to the same age with that taken notice of by Dr. Stukeley.

There was also a glass urn, of a green colour, dug up, about fifteen years ago, in Kingsmead, which lies about half a mile from the town, on

* *Conjux* (for *Conjugis*) is the true reading on the stone. But this must have been a mistake in the stone-cutter, who might be an ignorant man, as many of them were, making frequent blunders by omitting letters, and sometimes adding others; more particularly when they were not immediately overseen by the person whose office it was to direct them. There are many instances of omissions and redundancies in antient coins and inscriptions; thus we often find COS for CONS, or CONSVL; IDEA IOVIS for DEA IOVIS, IDEA PALATINA for DEA PALATINA, &c. &c. More of this may be seen in Mr. *Hearne's Dissertation on the Stunsfield Tessellated Pavement*, at the beginning of the 8th Vol. of *Leland's Itinerary*.

the side of the *Irminstreet*. This urn, which contained many ashes and pieces of burnt bones, was placed in a stone, chiseled out in a hollow form proper to receive it, and a flat stone covered the top. All these were deposited in the midst of a piece of ground about twenty feet square, inclosed with a stone wall which lay below the surface of the ground. The relicks were further secured by a pavement springing from the wall on every side, and rising in the middle over the urn, in the form of a very obtuse cone. This was undoubtedly Roman, but unaccompanied with coins, unless the workmen concealed them on the first discovery.

About the same time, a large stone coffin was dug up on the side of the road leading to Tetbury, not a quarter of a mile from the town. A human skeleton was found within it, with the scull between the legs, and a sword lying on the right side of it.

On the east side of the town, lies *Tor-barrow-hill*, which is undoubtedly a *tumulus*, as the name signifies. This must certainly be the hill said to stand in Colton's-field, near Cirencester, and of which there is a strange account^u in a paper printed by William

^u The story is to the following effect: Two men digging a gravel-pit at the foot of this hill, having sunk four yards deep, discovered an entrance into the hill, where they found several rooms with their furniture, which being touched, crumbled to dust. In one of them were several images and urns, some with ashes,

William Budden, 1685, and preserved in the Bodleian Library among Dr. Rawlinson's papers.

Westward of the town also, a little within lord Bathurst's park, is a large round mount of earth, thrown up to the height of about twenty feet, according to tradition, by Godrun the Dane, who is called Gurmundus in the British annals; whence, by vulgar corruption, the place hath obtained the name of *Grismund's-tower*, and *Christmas-tower*. There was probably a wooden watch-tower erected on it, according to the custom of the Danes, the better to explore the country, and to guard against a sudden surprize from the enemy. Upon opening the mount, about fifteen years ago, several large earthen

ashes, others full of coins, with Latin inscriptions on them. Entering another, they were surprized at seeing the figure of a man in armour, having a truncheon in its hand, and a light, in a glass like a lamp, burning before it. At their first approach, the image made an effort to strike, so at the second step, but with greater force; but at the third it struck a violent blow, which broke the glass to pieces, and extinguished the light. Having a lanthorn, they had just time to observe, that on the left hand [I suppose of the figure] lay two heads embalmed, with long beards, and the skin looking like parchment, when hearing a hollow noise like a groan, they hastily quitted those dark appartments, and immediately the earth fell in, and buried all the curiosities.——

Camden was informed by credible persons, that at the suppression of monasteries, there was found a lamp burning in the vault of that little chapel wherein Constantius Chlorus was thought to be buried. Lazius, says that antiquarian, tells us, that the antients had an art of dissolving gold into a fat liquor, and of preparing it so that it would continue burning in the sepulchres for many ages. *Camden*, v. 2, col. 880, in his account of York city.

D

vessels,

vessels, full of ashes and burnt bones, were found in it, and the earth and stones very much burnt for a great space in one part of it. But that a leaden vessel, with some ashes and bones of an uncommon size have been found *on* the mount, I have read no where but in Busching's Geography. Indeed Leland speaks of such a vessel, with ashes and pieces of bones, having been found where the castle stood, which Busching mistook for this tower. Who were the proprietors of these bones, and what bodies these ashes are a part of, are questions above the reach of antiquarism; but it is probable that they belong to some persons of eminence among the Danes, who fell in battle against the Saxons and Britons in these parts.

What gave rise to the practice of burning the dead is uncertain: some have conjectured that it was to avoid a visible degeneration into worms, and to leave a lasting portion of their composition after death; whilst others have thought it an expedient to escape the malice of enemies. But whatever was the occasion, the practice is of great antiquity. Homer has given many beautiful descriptions of the funeral obsequies of Patroclus, Achilles, Hector, and other chiefs among the Greeks and Trojans. At first they burnt the bodies of those only who were most eminent among them, but denied that honour to such as had laid violent hands on themselves, or had betrayed their country, because they conceived them
enemies

enemies to the gods. The funeral pile was composed of rosemary, larynx, yew, cypress, and fir, by which, being trees of perpetual verdure, it has been thought they intended to convey some hints of a resurrection.

The Romans adopted the practice from the Greeks, and so it came into use among the Celtæ in the western world. In Britain, urn-burial was not confined to the Romans, for we learn from Pomponius that the druids used to burn and bury; and it is affirmed, that Bellinus, brother to the British king Brennus, was burnt. Cæsar says that burning was practised in Gaul; and since we learn from Tacitus, that the Britons were soon brought to build temples, to wear the gown, and study the Roman laws and language, it is no improbable conjecture, that they soon also conformed to their customs in burial.

The Saxons, Jutes, and Angles came from parts where burning was antiently practised, and the Germans, from whom they descended, used it, as Tacitus affirms.

In Denmark and Norway many urns have been found, very different from those of the Romans, as may be seen in Wormius; whence it should seem, that the Danes very antiently burned the dead; indeed Frotho the Great made a law, that princes and great commanders should be committed to the fire, tho' the common sort had grave-interment. It was also the custom of those people

to distinguish the remains of the most noble among them, by placing large stones in circles about them.

The urns we find are neither uniform in figure, nor of one capacity; the largest contain about three gallons, some not much above half that measure. Some have handles, ears, and long necks, but most are of a circular form; many are red, some black, some covered with brick or tile, and some have earthen covers adapted to them, whilst great numbers have no covering, but the earth pressed into them. Some have lachrimatories, or tear-bottles, attending them, either as sacred to the *Manes* of the deceased, or passionate expressions of their surviving friends, who, with hired tears, solemnized their obsequies.

Where we find D. M. [*Diis Manibus*] we commonly meet with *Patera*, and vessels of libation, upon old sepulchral monuments. An urn preserved by cardinal Farnese contained the heads of several gods and goddesses, an ape of agate, a grasshopper, an elephant of amber, a crystal ball, three glasses, two spoons, and other things, which probably the deceased took pleasure in; and in some urns we find money, rings, darts, and pieces of broken armour. It has been conjectured, that the money was intended as a fee for old Charon; but whatever was the design, the putting coins in urns, and the present practice of burying money in the foundations of noble buildings, are laudable

laudable means of chronological discovery, and posterity will applaud them.

As the time is uncertain when the practice of burning the dead began, so is that of its ceasing also. Macrobius affirms that it was disused in his days. In Minutius's time, it was objected against the Christians, that tho' they did not hesitate, for the cause of religion, to give their bodies to be burnt when alive, yet they condemned^w the practice of burning after death; so that we may conclude with great certainty, that it ceased about the time of the conversion to christianity; and as the Romans confessedly practised it after they possessed Britain, the urns we find here are generally attributed to them, or to the Britons romanised. But to return from this digression to my former subject.

There was a Roman tessellated pavement found in a garden in Dyer-street, belonging to a house the property of Mr. Joseph Small; another was lately discovered in digging a cellar in Mr. Cripps's house, belonging formerly to the family of the Georges; and another was found, a few years ago, in digging the vault under the shambles at the Boothall; and without doubt many more are left for future ages to discover. These probably belonged to the halls or principal rooms of some great officers, under the *prætor* or chief magistrate

^w Execrantur rogos, et damnant ignium sepulturam. *Minut. Fel.* p. 97.

that governed the town. The tessellated pavements were of two orders. Those of the nobler kind, which had usually the figure of Apollo, or some other deity upon them, were called *Megalographia*, in contradistinction to the other sort of them, on which were representations of most inferior beings. This sort was stiled *Ropographia*. But what those were, of which I have just been speaking, is uncertain, as there is no drawing of them, and the works themselves are destroy'd, to the regret of the lovers of antiquity.

The coins that have been found here are chiefly those of Antoninus, Dioclesian, and Constantine.

Three Roman consular ways meet at this place, the great *Foss-way*, the *Irminstreet*, and the *Acman-street*.

The *Foss* comes from Scotland, and enters this county from Warwickshire, by Lemington. It passeth thro' Moreton-henmarsh and Stow, by Bourton on the Water, and Northleach, and crossing the river Coln at a place called Foss-bridge, leads directly to Cirencester.

The *Acmanstreet-way*, but sometimes called the *Ickenild-way*^{*}, crosseth Oxfordshire, and coming to

^{*} 'The *Ickenild-way* pass'd not far from it, [Witney] on the right Hand in its Course to Cirencester, where all the four great Ways cross'd.' *Discourse concerning some Antiquities found in Yorkshire*, published at the end of Vol. I. of *Leland's Itin.* p. 119.—The *Foss*, on the west of Cirencester, as far as Bath, is by some writers called the *Acmanstreet-way*, and thus Leland makes the number of the Roman ways meeting here, to be four.

Broadwell-grove, where it is very high and perfect, enters this county at the parish of Eastleach, and joins the great *Foss-way* about a mile north-east of Cirencester. Four miles and a half westward of the town, it leaves the turnpike-road, at a place called *Jacuments-bottom*, but more truly *Acman's-bottom*, and enters Wiltshire near Kemble, in its straight course to Bath, the *Accmannercearcepen* of the Saxons.

Another of the great Roman ways, supposed by some to be the *Irminstreet*, leads from Caerleon in Monmouthshire, through Gloucester and this place, to Cricklade, and so on to Southampton^r. Mercury was thought to preside over the highways, and the Germans worshipped him by the

^r In an essay concerning the four great Roman ways, at the end of the 6th Vol. of Leland's Itinerary, I find Mr. Camden quoted for his observation, (p. 240) that 'Several towns lye on and near the last mentioned causeway, that retain the word *Sarn* in their names, as *Sharncoate* and *South Sarney*, between *Creeklade* and *Cirencester*, and *North Sarney* about two miles above the latter upon the river Churn, and *Sharnton* about three miles from Gloucester. All which have taken their appellations from the British word *Sarn*, which imports *stratum*, or *pavimentum*, and in Wales we have such an one called *Sarn Helen* to this day.' But I differ in opinion from that learned antiquary, respecting the names of the above places. The *Cerneys* were antiently written, as they now are, with *C*, and not with *S*, and I apprehend the name to have taken its origin from the river *Corin* or *Churn*, and to signify the same as *Churn-ey*, or the *Churn-water*, for they are both seated on the river Churn, one south of Cirencester, as the other is north of the same town. And as to *Sharncoate*, which is adjoining to South Cerney, on the contrary side of it from the Roman road, I suppose it to be nothing more than *Cerney-coed*, so called from the British word *coed*, which signifies *wood*, as having been antiently a woody place.

name of *Irmunful*, whence, according to Mr. Camden, this Roman way derives its name.

The notion which some have entertained of these roads having been thrown up by one *Mulmutius*, long before the birth of Christ, is now generally exploded. *Isidore's* testimony, that *highways were made almost all over the world by the Romans*, in which they employ'd the soldiery and the people, that they might not grow factious by too much ease, goes a great way in determining to whom they ought to be attributed; but further, there are antient records, which say, that *In the days of Honorius and Arcadius there were made in Britain certain highways from sea to sea*. And here it may be proper to observe, that we derive the custom of placing mile-stones on our turnpike-roads from the Romans, for at the end of every mile, along their great roads, pillars were erected by the emperors, with figures cut in them to signify the number of miles. Hence *Sidonius Apolonius*,

*Antiquus tibi nec teratur agger,
Cujus per spatium satis vetustis
Nomen Cæsareum viret columnis.*

‘Nor let the antient causeway be defac’d,

‘Where, in old pillars, Cæsar’s name’s express’d.’

By the sides of them were also the graves and monuments of famous men, to put the traveller in mind of his own mortality; whence arose that
usual

usual apostrophe, *Siste Viator*, in monumental inscriptions.

The learned antiquary before mentioned, in his account of Radnorshire, has shewn, that large heaps of stones, confusedly piled up together, are common in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, in the north, and probably in other parts of England, and are called by the British name *Karneu*, *Karned-beu*, and *Kairn*, which he understands to be a primitive word, signifying a *heap of stones*. He is of opinion, that most of them were intended for memorials of the dead, not only because he observed, near the summit of one of them, a rude stone monument in the form of a coffer or chest, but also, because it was antiently the custom to throw up large heaps of stones for sepulchral monuments, and in later times, more particularly over the graves of malefactors: What led me to this observation, is a piece of ground on the south-west side of the town, just without the old city wall, which goes by the name of the *Querns*, or *Kairns*, full of such large heaps of stones, but now, in length of time, covered with herbage. Large monumental stones have been dug up there, as already taken notice of from Dr. Stukeley, who concluded from thence, that the *Querns* was the common burying-place of the antient city of Cirencester; but, notwithstanding the name, I am far from thinking those heaps of stones are so many funeral piles, but rather, that they are heaps

of rubbish, made by digging for stone to raise the city wall, or some other large buildings.

I must not, however, leave the Querns, without first taking notice of a plot within it, of an elliptical form, called the *Bull-ring*, the longest diameter of which is sixty-three yards, the other forty-six. Round it is a mound or wall of earth, thrown up to the height of about twenty feet, sloped on the inside with so much exactness as to manifest the hand of care and design; and I am of opinion, that there were originally rows of seats, or steps, one below the other, from top to bottom; but time has much defaced them. There are two avenues to this area, (east and west) and on the north side also is another strait approach, between two stone walls, lately discovered by people digging for stone. It is directed to the centre of the area, and about thirty inches wide between the walls, which were designed to keep up the high bank of earth on each side. Probably this is a Roman theatre, or else one of those places where antiently people met at the *Gurimawrs*², which were held in spacious places, inclosed with earthen banks, having room sufficient for thousands of people within. But tradition is silent as to the

² *Guiredd*, in the British language, signifies *truth*, and *mawrs* great; so that the word may signify the *scriptures*, or *great truths*. It is generally agreed that these circular places have been appropriated to religious purposes, and probably some parts of the scripture history were usually represented in them, for the instruction of the people.

use of it; nor do I find the place itself taken notice of any where in history. Mr. Camden mentions one something like it in Westmoreland, called *King Arthur's Round Table*, which he thinks might possibly be a justing-place.

Of Military Affairs, and other memorable Events.

This town hath seen many great events and memorable transactions. From Orosius's manner of expressing himself, one might be induced to think it a place of note in the time of Julius Cæsar. The third battle, says he, which that general had with the *Bryttas*, *was near the river which men call the Temese, near those fords which are called Wallingford; after which, not only all the inhabitants of Cyrnceastre submitted, but the whole island.*

Some say the emperor Constantine was crowned king of the Britons here, whilst others insist that York has a better claim to that honour; however it is certain, that Cirencester was a very considerable place in that emperor's time.

Under the Heptarchy, it lay within the kingdom of Mercia, which, as it appears by Ethelwerd, was divided from that of the West Saxons by the river Avon; but in the year 577, this city was won from the Britons of Mercia, who had 'till then defended themselves in these parts with great bravery against the West Saxons, by whom

they were totally routed that year at Deopham, [Dyrham] under two of their leaders, Cuthwin and Ceaulin. Three British princes, Commeail, Condidan, and Fariemeiol were slain in battle, and the cities of Cirencester, Gloucester, and Bath fell into the hands of the enemy; and soon after, Cirencester was made a frontier garrison against the Mercians.

About fifty years afterwards, *anno* 628, Penda, king of Mercia, endeavoured to recover this place from the West Saxons, and meeting Cynegils and Cwichelm, (the king and his son) near Cirencester, with great forces on both sides, a bloody battle ensued; when, according to Huntingdon, both armies having abjured flight, they were parted only by the darkness of the night; and this engagement not being much in favour of either party, they made peace the next morning, which continued but for a short time. The West Saxons, however, remained masters of Cirencester, 'till Peada, the first christian king of Mercia, and son of Penda, retook it from them in the year 656.

From that time, either no very interesting transactions happened here, for a space of two hundred years, or our historians have taken no notice of them. But in the year 879, the Danes, under their leader Godrum, having been routed by king Alfred at Ethandun in Wiltshire, surrendered their castle in that neighbourhood, and made peace with the king, on condition that they
might

might have leave to quit the kingdom ; and accordingly they came immediately from Chippenham to Cirencester^a, and remaining here one whole year, went afterwards to the eastern parts of the kingdom. This Godrum, or Gothrum, is probably the same that Polydore Virgil and others call Gormon and Gurmond, an African tyrant.

It is mentioned in the British Annals, that the same Gurmundus, after besieging this city a long time in vain, at last ordered wild-fire and combustible matter to be tied to the legs of sparrows, and letting them fly, they lighted on the houses and set them on fire, by which stratagem he took the city ; whence Giraldus calls it the *City of Sparrows*. Alexander Neccham, from the same annals, writes of it thus :

*Urbs vires experta tuas, Gurmunde, per annos
Septem.*

A city that experienc'd Gurmund's power
For seven long years.

But it should be remembered, that poets are not always good historians ; nor is there the least reason to believe that Gurmund, if he be the same with Affer's Godrum, was longer here than one year, unless we suppose it to be before his convention with king Alfred.

^a Afferii Annales Rerum gestarum Ælfredi Magni. p. 35.

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The next memorable thing taken notice of to have happened here, was in the year 1020, when king Knute, after his return from Denmark, held a general council of the kingdom, at Easter, in this town, in which Ethelwold was outlawed.

Here was a castle on the south-west side of the town, and tho' I have not been able to discover when nor by whom it was built, our histories give us a more certain account of its destruction; for in the year 1142, the town having been made a garrison for Matilda the empress, against king Stephen, he came so suddenly and unexpectedly upon the castle, as to surprize and burn it. However it was soon afterwards rebuilt, and held out against the king by the earl of Leicester's constable, who at length surrendered it, to procure better terms for his master on his submission. This castle was garrisoned by the barons who took up arms against king Henry the Third; but that king soon recovered it, and caused it to be immediately demolished.

When the barons took up arms against king John, in the 16th year of his reign, the royal army was drawn together at this place; and again, upon a like occasion, this was the rendezvous for the army which king Edward the Second assembled, to crush the confederacy formed by the earl of Lancaster and the lords of the marches, against Hugh le Despencer the king's favourite.

But

But this place is more remarkable for the suppression of the rebellion raised by the dukes of Aumerle, Surry, and Exeter, and the earls of Gloucester and Salisbury, and their adherents, in the 1st year of king Henry the Fourth. This signal service was effected by the bravery and conduct of the mayor, as he is called in our histories, and about 400 of the townsmen only. Those noblemen had formed a conspiracy to seize and assassinate the king, at a tournament at Oxford, to which he was invited. The plot was committed to writing, and each conspirator had a copy, signed and sealed by all the confederates. Afterwards, Aumerle being at dinner with his father the duke of York, the latter observ'd a paper in his son's bosom, seized it, and reading the contents, order'd his horses to be saddled immediately. Suspecting his father's intention, Aumerle rode full speed to the king at Windsor, and discovering the conspiracy, obtained pardon before the duke arrived. The other conspirators suspecting themselves discovered, raised a numerous army to surprize the king at Windsor. But Henry having also assembled 20,000 men, marched to give them battle, which so discouraged them, that they retreated to Cirencester, and encamped without the gates. The chiefs quartered in the town, but the mayor perceiving that the gates and avenues were unguarded, assembled 400 men in the night, seized the gates, and attack'd the four noblemen in their quarters. The duke
of

of Surry, and earl of Salisbury were taken, and beheaded on the spot, but the duke of Exeter, and the earl of Gloucester, escaped by the tops of the houses to the camp, which the soldiers had abandoned, and fled; imagining, from the noise and tumult of fighting in the town, which had been set on fire by the rebel party, that a detachment of the king's troops had entered it. The duke of Exeter and earl of Gloucester were taken some time after, and lost their heads in the sequel. The heads of Surry and Salisbury were sent to London, their bodies having been buried in the abbey; but the head of the latter was restored, and his body removed to Bustlesham, now Bisham in Berkshire, where he had founded a priory for canons of the order of St. Austin, dedicated to Christ Jesus and the virgin Mary, valued at the dissolution at 327*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

The king, for this great service done him by the men of Cirencester, granted them all the rebels goods, and four does in season out of his forest of Bredon, and one hogshead of wine out of his port of Bristol. And to the women, he granted six bucks in right season, and one hogshead of wine out of the same port. See *Appendix*, N^o. 1. Afterwards, in the 4th year of his reign, the same king granted to the town, a court of Staple for merchandize, erecting a corporation of a mayor and two constables, and others the commonalty, for the encouragement of trade, by the execution of
of

of the *Statute Merchant*. But this charter, after a long suit in the Exchequer, was decreed to be cancelled, 37 Eliz.

All these events shew the town to have been large, and of great account, in the times of which I have been speaking; but even in later ages, it has been the scene of remarkable transactions; for here, as I find it in *Corbet's History of the Military Government of Gloucester*, was the first forcible opposition to king Charles the First, in the year 1641, by insulting lord Chandois, then lieutenant of the county, who was at that time executing the commission of array. The rabble encompassed him, and forced him to sign a paper, promising that he would no more attempt to put it in execution. His lordship escaped unhurt in his person, but his coach was cut in pieces.

This place was garrisoned, soon after, by the parliament's forces, and about the first of January, 1642, was threatened to be stormed by the main strength of the king's army, which came before it; but after staying two days, withdrew to wait for a reinforcement of horse and artillery, and returned again on the 30th of the same month, under the command of prince Rupert, who assaulted the town on the 2d of February, of which action the following is a short account, drawn from one published by his highness's chaplain. The prince had two eighteen pounders, and four field-pieces; and a mortar-piece to throw granades. Proper dispositions

sitions being made, the attack began at an inclosure between Mr. Poole's house [now the site of lord Bathurst's house] and that of the Barton. The assailants being twice reinforced, beat the townsmen from the hedge, to the garden wall of the Barton. Mean while, a strong body, under general Wilmot and colonel Uffer, attack'd and burnt the Barton house, whence the townsmen were driven, and afterwards pursued by 500 of colonel Kirk's men, to the first turnpike, (a kind of barricado) by Cicely hill. Lord Wentworth, who had the command of the right wing of the army, was to have fallen to the southward, on the right hand of the mount, now called Grismund's Tower; but being misled on the left hand of it, was flanked by a battery of two six pounders, erected on the mount, and annoyed by the musquetry from a high wall before them; which thinking it difficult to force, they drew to the left, into the lane leading to Cicely-hill, and joining colonel Kirk's men there, entered the barricado, or turnpike, together. Colonel Scrimfour, with a party of horse, then pushed into the town, and drove all before them. Colonel Fettiplace, who was the governor, captain Warneford, and Mr. George, one of the members for the borough, with many others, were taken prisoners in the town, and together with such of the fugitives as were taken in their flight, were secured in the church. Great numbers of arms were found in the houses, and drawn out of the river,

river, to the amount of upwards of 3000, for this place had been a magazine for the country.

This town was afterwards made quarters, sometimes for the king's army, at others for that of the parliament. After the siege of Gloucester was raised, the earl of Essex beat up the king's quarters here, and drove sir Nicholas Crisp and colonel Spencer, with their two regiments of horse, out of the town. In this action he took 400 horse, and 30 cart-loads of provisions, which was a seasonable supply to his army.

Here also was the first bloodshed in the last revolution, in the year 1688, when lord Lovelace, being on his march to join the prince of Orange with a party of horse, was attacked by captain Lorange of the county militia, animated by the duke of Beaufort, who was a zealous man for king James. The captain was proprietor of Haymes in this county, and tho' both he and his son lost their lives at that time, his men overpowered lord Lovelace, took him, and carried him prisoner to Gloucester jail, having slain some unfortunate gentlemen at the same time.

The summer assize for the county was held here, by lord chief justice Scroggs and sir Robert Atkyns, on account of the plague being at Gloucester, in the year 1679.

3. *Of the antient and present State of the Hundred of Cirencester, and its Subdivisions; of the Borough, the Manor, and other Estates.*

This place very antiently gave denomination to a hundred, which, at different times, was more or less extensive. Soon after the conquest, as we find in *Domesday-book*, it included the following places, viz. *Achellie, Benwedene, Circestre, Dunteshorne, Hunlafesed, Nortcote, Penneberie, Prestetune, Stratone, Sudintone, Torentune, Turfberie.*

In the ninth year of the reign of king Edward the First, the sheriff of the county returned, that in the hundred of Cirencester are the under-written vills, viz. *Baudinton, Cirencester, Cotes, Daglinworth, Down Ampney, Dryfeild, Dunteshorne, Hampton Moysey, Preston, Sodington, South Cerney, Upampney.*

By comparing the two accounts, it is observable, that Cotes is a new name, and stands, in the sheriff's return, in the room of Hunlafesed, Torentune, and Turfberie, as we find them set down in *Domesday-book*. Achellie, Nortcote, and Penneberie, specified in the *Domesday* account, are not mentioned by the sheriff, because, at that time, they were considered as members only of some of the vills set down in his return. Daglinworth, in the latter account, is substituted for Stratone in *Domesday*, which latter is not set down as a vill in the above-mentioned sheriff's return; whereas the former

former is no where to be found in the general survey ; I conclude, therefore, that both those places, especially as they join together, were, 'till some time after the sheriff's return, reputed to be one vill or parish only, which took denomination, at first from Stratton, but afterwards from Daglingworth, 'till it came to be divided into two parishes. It is also remarkable, that both the Ampneys, Dryfeild, and Hampton Moysey, which in *Domesday-book* are placed in Gerfdon hundred, are returned by the sheriff as belonging to that of Cirencester.

Afterwards, another very material alteration took place in this hundred. In the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the Fourth, the town was erected into a kind of corporation, and two constables placed over it, whereby it became a distinct jurisdiction. The out-parishes, with Minety, were severed from it, and held a separate *Torn* or court, which for distinction was probably called *The Out Torn and Minety*, but now vulgarly, and as I conceive corruptly, *Crowthorne and Minety*. The hundred was the property of the abbat, who chose rather to have the people of his house under the jurisdiction of the constable of the *Out-Torn*, than subject to the officers of the borough, or *In-Torn*, which alone retained the name of the hundred of Cirencester. Thus the abbey and all its precincts and offices became distinct from the borough, and have continued so ever since.

From

From that time the hundred and the borough have been commensurate.

The borough is divided into seven wards, *i. e.* Dyer-ward, Cricklade-ward, Castle-ward, Gof-ditch-ward, Dollar-ward, St. Lawrence-ward, and Instrip-ward. To each ward two wardsmen, or petty constables, are annually appointed at the leet; where also two high constables are appointed, whose authority extends over the hundred and borough.

This borough sent representatives to a great council 11 E. 3. and by the grant of queen Elizabeth, in the thirteenth year of her reign, it sends two members to parliament. At first, only the free burgesses were electors, but on the occasion of a contested election, in the reign of king James the First, it was determined, that the inhabitants householders, not receiving alms, should make the election; but the house of commons, Nov. 4, 1690, resolved, *That the inhabitants of the borough of Cirencester, being inmates, have no right to vote in electing burgesses to serve in parliament;* and by their resolution of Dec. 1, 1709, *the inhabitants of the Abbey, the Emery, and the Spiringate-lane have not a right to vote in such election.* The number of electors is between six and seven hundred.

A List of the Burgesses who have served in Parliament for this Borough.

1571,	Gabriel Blike, esq;	Thomas Poole, gent.
1572,	Thomas Powle,	Thomas Strange, gent.
1585,	Tho. Poole, jun'. esq;	Will. Estcourt, gen.
1586,	Charles Danvers, esq;	Geo. Masters, gent.

1588,

1588. Charles Danvers, esq; Geo. Masters, gent.
 1592, Oliver St. John, Henry Ferrys, gent.
 1596, James Wroughton, esq; Hen. Powle.
 1601, Rich. Browne, esq; Rich. George, esq.
 1603, Rich. Marten, esq; Arnold Oldisworth, esq.
 Edw. Jones, k^t. in Marten's place, and
 Anth. Mannye, k^t. in Jones's place, dec^d.
 1614, Lord Newborough, Tho. Rowe.
 1620, Tho. Roe, knight, Tho. Nicholas, esq.
 1623, William Masters, k^t. Hen. Pool, esq.
 1625, Miles Sandys, k^t. Hen. Pool, esq.
 1625, Nevill Pool, k^t. John George, esq.
 1628, Giles Estcourt, k^t. & bar^t. John George, esq.
 1640, Hen. Pool, esq; John George, esq.
 1641, Theobald Gorges, k^t. John George, esq. In their
 places, Thomas Fairfax, k^t. Nath. Rich, esq.
 1653, The Little Parliament. No boroughs sent representatives.
 1654, John Stone, of Friday-street, London, esq.
 1656, John Stone, esq; of Westminster.
 1658-9, John Stone, esq; Rich. Southby, esq.
 These three last were the Common Wealth Parliaments.
 1660, Rich. Honour, John George.
 This was called the Convention Parliament.
 1661, Rich. Honour, John George.
 1678, Hen. Powle, Sir Rob. Atkyns.
 1680, Hen. Powle, Sir Rob. Atkyns.
 1680-1, Hen. Powle, Sir Rob. Atkyns.
 1685, Tho. Master, Earl of Newburgh.
 1688, Tho. Master, John Howe.
 1689, John Howe, Rich. Howe.
 1695, John Howe, Rich. Howe.
 1698, Hen. Ireton, Charles Coxe.
 1700, Char. Coxe, James Thynne.
 1701, Char. Coxe, William Master.
 1702, Char. Coxe, William Master.
 1705, Allen Bathurst, Hen. Ireton.
 1707, Allen Bathurst, Hen. Ireton.
 1708, Allen Bathurst, Charles Coxe.
 1710, Charles Coxe, Thomas Master.
 1713, Tho. Master, Benj. Bathurst.
 1714, Tho. Master, Benj. Bathurst.
 1722, Tho. Master, Benj. Bathurst.
 1727, Tho. Master, Peter Bathurst.
 1734, Tho.

From that time the hundred and the borough have been commensurate.

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 1700, Char. Coxe, James Thynne.
 1701, Char. Coxe, William Master.
 1702, Char. Coxe, William Master.
 1705, Allen Bathurst, Hen. Ireton.
 1707, Allen Bathurst, Hen. Ireton.
 1708, Allen Bathurst, Charles Coxe.
 1710, Charles Coxe, Thomas Master.
 1713, Tho. Master, Benj. Bathurst.
 1714, Tho. Master, Benj. Bathurst.
 1722, Tho. Master, Benj. Bathurst.
 1727, Tho. Master, Peter Bathurst.

1734, Tho.

1734,	Tho. Master,	William Wodehouse.
1741,	Tho. Master,	Henry Bathurst.
1747,	Thomas Master,	Henry Bathurst.
But Thomas Master dying in 1748, John Coxe was elected.		
1754,	John Dawney,	Benjamin Bathurst.
1761,	John Dawney,	James Whitshed.
1768,	James Whitshed,	Estcourt Cresswell.
1775,	James Whitshed,	Samuel Blackwell.

The arms of the town are, *A Phoenix in Flames*, alluding to its having risen out of the ashes of the antient city, as the young phoenix is said to proceed from the ashes of the old one.

Cirencester gives the title of baron to William duke of Portland, whose ancestor, by letters patent dated Apr. 9, 1689, was created ^b baron of Cirencester, viscount Woodstock, and earl of Portland.

Richardus Coriniensis was so called because he was born here. He was a monk of Westminster, and is famous for collecting an Itinerary, in the 14th century, of Roman Britain, from some remains of records drawn up between the years 138 and 170, by the authority of a Roman general, supposed to have been *Lollius Urbicus*, governor of Britain under Antoninus Pius; which work was a long time lost to his native country. Mr. Bertram, an English gentleman, discovered the manuscript at Copenhagen, in 1747. A copy having been transmitted to the late Dr. Stukeley, he published a translation of the Itinerary, part with a comment, in 1757, and in the subsequent

^b Collins's Peerage, Vol. 2, p. 139. Edit. 1768.

year the whole work was printed at Copenhagen, and a few copies sent to England as presents.

Here are three fairs in the year, *viz.* on Easter-Tuesday, July 18, and Nov. 8. The two cloth-fairs mentioned by sir Robert Atkyns, one in the week before Palm-Sunday, the other in the week before the feast of St. Bartholomew, are both discontinued.

The property of the hundred descended with the principal manor, which is next to be considered.

The manor of Cirencester is of the antient demesns of the crown, of which *Domesday-book* gives the following particulars :

‘ King Edward had five hides of land in
 ‘ Cirecestre hundred. There are five plow-till-
 ‘ lages in demean, and thirty-one villeins, with
 ‘ ten plow-tillages. There are thirteen *servi*, and
 ‘ ten bordars, and three mills of 30*s.* some mea-
 ‘ dow, and two woods of 50*s.* And there are two
 ‘ free men who have two plow-tillages. The
 ‘ queen hath the wool of all the sheep. In the
 ‘ time of king Edward, this manor paid three
 ‘ bushels [*modios*] and a half of corn for bread,
 ‘ three bushels [*modios*] of barley, and fix sextaries
 ‘ and a half of honey, and 9*l.* 5*s.* and 3000 loaves
 ‘ for the dogs. It now pays 20*l.* 5*s.* and twenty
 ‘ cows, and twenty hogs, and 16*s.* instead of the
 ‘ loaves, and 20*s.* for the new market, of which
 ‘ St. Mary hath the third penny.’ *D. Book, p. 67.*

The church of St. Mary held two hides in the hundred, which will be taken notice of in its proper place ; and there were two other manors in the vill, thus particularized in the record ;

‘ A free man held two hides of land in Cirecestre, and paid 20s. and did service to the sheriff throughout all England. Earl William put this land out of farm, and gave it to one of his men.’

‘ William the son of Baderon held two hides in Cirecestre, and Hugh holds them of him. There is one plow-tillage in demean, and one villein and a half, and four bordars, with one plow-tillage. There are two *servi*. It was worth 100s. now 70s. Aluui held this land.’ *D. B. p. 73.*

It is impossible, at present, to distinguish between the two last manors with any degree of precision ; but I conjecture that the first of the three continued in the crown ’till it was granted, with the jurisdiction of the seven hundreds, by king Richard the First, to the abbat and convent of Cirencester. Sir Robert Atkyns is imperfect in his account of these manors and their appendages ; which is the more remarkable, as he himself claimed to be the proprietor of some of them. I will give the best account I can of them, from the materials in my possession.

When the townsmen of Cirencester suppressed the rebellion against king Henry the Fourth, they petitioned the king to be incorporated ; whereupon the king directed his writ to the escheator, to inquire

quire what damage others might sustain if he should comply with their desires. The escheator returned the king's writ, the petition, and the inquisition, which he had taken at Gloucester, 4 H. 4. into the court of Chancery, where they were exemplified, and whence I have extracted the following particulars: 'The jurors say, that the
 ' town of Cirencester and the town of Mynety,
 ' with the appurtenances, make and are the manor
 ' of Cirencester, and were so in the time of king
 ' Richard the First. That the church of St. Mary
 ' of Cirencester is of the foundation of king Henry
 ' the First, and within his patronage. That king
 ' Richard the First gave to God, and the church
 ' of St. Mary of Cirencester, his whole manor of
 ' Cirencester, with all and singular the appurte-
 ' nances, and with the town of Mynetie, which is
 ' a member of the said manor, and with the seven
 ' hundreds to the same manor, and to his farm
 ' belonging, and with all other the appurtenances,
 ' to be holden of the said king and his successors
 ' for ever, at the rent of 30*l.* a year, with 'Soca,
 ' Saca, Thol, Them, Infangtheof, and Outfang-
 ' theof, Hamfoca, and Girthbriche, Blodewite,
 ' Murder, Forestall, Flemsfleet, Ordeal, and Orest,
 ' within time and without, and in all places and
 ' with all causes which may be. And that the
 ' rent of assize of the said manor of Cirencester

^c The explanation of these terms may be seen in the Appendix, N^o. 1.

' is 143*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* yearly, payable to the abbat.
 ' And that the said seven hundreds are but as one
 ' hundred, and time out of man's memory have
 ' been used as one hundred before the making the
 ' aforefaid deed, and belonging to the said manor
 ' of Cirencester, and are holden at the town of
 ' Cirencester, from three weeks to three weeks, in
 ' a certain house called the Tolsede^d, situate in the
 ' middle of the said town. That the manor of
 ' Cirencester is the antient demean of the crown,
 ' and that to the said manor belong two free te-
 ' nants, William Erchbald and the holder of the
 ' court, and that all other tenants to the said
 ' manor, in the aforefaid town of Cirencester and
 ' Mynetie belonging, hold all their lands and
 ' tenements according to the custom of the manor
 ' of Cirencester.'

Hence it is evident that this is the same manor
 with that mentioned in *Domesday-book* to have
 been held by king Edward ; which, with the hun-
 dred of Cirencester, the seven hundreds, and other
 particulars granted to the abbey of Cirencester,
 were part of the possessions of that abbey 'till it
 was dissolved. Yet, according to sir Robert
 Atkyns, Ela, countess of Warwick, held the
 hundreds of Cirencester and Bristwoles Borough
 11 E. 1. and the abbess of Lacock in Wiltshire
 was seized of the hundred of Cirencester 12 E. 1.

^d The lower part of the Tolsede, or Tolsay, is now converted
 into a grocer's shop, in the Butter-row, and the rooms over it
 are part of a dwelling house.

But 15 E. 1. the king's writ of *Quo warranto* was issued against the abbat of Cirencester, for the liberties of the seven hundreds, and his claim was allowed. At the dissolution of the monastery, all these particulars reverted to the crown.

The hundred of Cirencester, Crother', Bright-waldes barrowe, Respegete, Bradley, Langtre, and Myntyte, and the seven hundreds of Cirencester, were afterwards granted to sir Thomas Seymour, lord Seymour of Sudley, as I find it recited in a subsequent grant of them to sir Anthony Kingstone, 6 E. 6. of which I have an office copy.

Sir John Danvers died seized of the manor 37 Eliz. and was succeeded by his son, Henry Danvers earl of Danby, who built a large house on the west side of the town, and made the famous physic-garden, for the public use of the university of Oxford. The manor and hundred were afterwards sold to Henry Poole, whose son and heir sir William Poole, in 1645, assigned them, with their appurtenances, and levied a fine thereof to the lady Poole, his mother, (in lieu of dower) for her life, and after her death, to her daughter Anne Poole, and her heirs; which Anne was married to James earl of Newburgh, and previously thereto, and in consideration thereof, she released to him the manor, borough, and town of Cirencester, with their appurtenances and franchises, to the use of him and his heirs. Charles was his heir. He married Frances —, who survived him; to whom

whom he left the premisses in fee. She sold them, in the year 1695, to sir Benjamin Bathurst, father of the Earl of Bathurst^e, the present proprietor; between whom and Mr. Chamberlayne there is a dispute concerning the right to the seven hundreds. His lordship holds courts for the hundred of Cirencester in the borough; and those for the seven hundreds are held by Thomas Horde, esq; and the reverend Mr. Chamberlayne, within their respective jurisdictions.

Soon

^e His Lordship's ancestors were seated at a place called Bathurst, in Suffex, not far from Battle abbey, of which they were dispossessed, and their castle demolished, in the troublesome times of the dispute between the houses of York and Lancaster.

Lawrence Bathurst was seated at Cranebrook in Kent, within three miles distance of the antient seat; and held lands at Staplehurst in the same county, besides his paternal estates at Cranebrook and Canterbury. He left issue three sons, Edward, ancestor to the Earl of Bathurst; Robert, of Horsmanden in Kent; and John, who had lands in Staplehurst, by his father's gift.

Edward, the eldest son of Lawrence Bathurst, was seated at Staplehurst, and among other children, had

Launcelot Bathurst, alderman of London, who, in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, was possessed of the manor of Franks, in the county of Kent. He married Judith, daughter of Richard Randolph, of London, by whom he had issue four sons and three daughters, Randolph, Launcelot, Edward, and George Bathurst; Elizabeth, married to John Brown, esq; Mary, wedded to Edmund Peshall, esq; and Susan, espoused to Robert Owen, esq. From the eldest son, Randolph Bathurst, the family at Franks descended, now extinct in the male line.

George Bathurst, youngest son of the said Launcelot, in the year 1610, married Elizabeth Villiers, daughter and coheir of Edward Villiers, of Howthorp, in com. Northampton, descended from an ancestor of George Villiers duke of Buckingham, and had with her the said manor of Howthorp, where he settled, and had

Soon after his lordship was possessed of the above estate, by the death of his father, he purchased

had issue twelve sons and four daughters. Several of the sons died in the service of king Charles the First, during the civil war. Those who survived were Ralph, Villiers, Henry, Moses, and sir Benjamin. Ralph was educated at Trinity college in Oxford, for a divine, but during the civil war studied physic, and was employed as a physician in the navy. At the restoration, resuming his former function, he became fellow of the Royal Society, president of Trinity-college, and one of the king's chaplains; and on June 28, 1670, was installed dean of Wells. He died on the 14th of June, 1704, and was buried in the chapel of Trinity-college, which he built at his own expence, and was highly esteemed for his learning.—Villiers Bathurst was judge-advocate of the navy, in the reigns of king Charles the Second, and king William and queen Mary, and died in the same post in the reign of queen Anne.—Henry was attorney-general of Munster, and recorder of Cork and Kinsale; but he and Moses dying without issue, their estates descended to their younger brother,

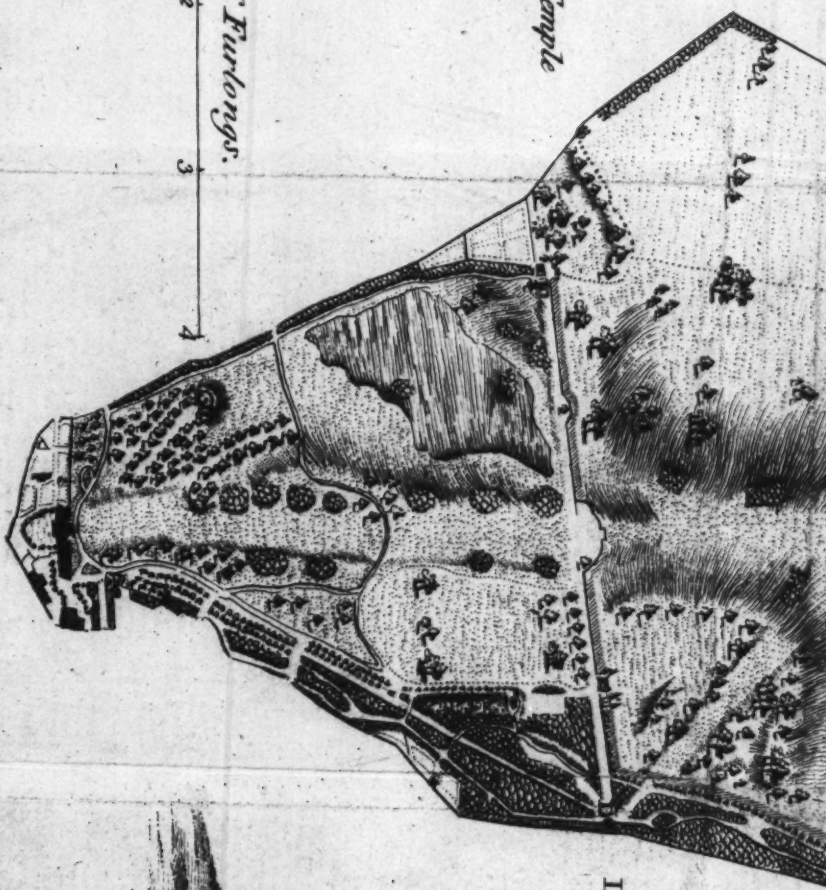
Sir Benjamin Bathurst, who, in the reign of king Charles the Second, was elected governor of the Royal African Company, under his Royal Highness James duke of York; also governor of the East India Company, in the years 1688, 1689. He was afterwards treasurer of the household to the princess Anne of Denmark, on the establishment of it, and was appointed cofferer when she acceded to the crown. Sir Benjamin died Aug. 27, 1704, and was buried at Pauler's Pury in Northamptonshire, leaving issue, by Frances his wife, daughter of sir Allen Apsley, of Apsley in Suffex, knight, three sons, Allen, Peter, and Benjamin; and one daughter, Anne, wedded to Henry Pye, of Farringdon in Berkshire, esq.

Allen, the eldest son of sir Benjamin Bathurst, served in parliament for the borough of Cirencester, from the year 1705, 'till queen Anne, in consideration of his own great merit, and the long services of his father, was pleased to advance him to the dignity of a peer of Great Britain, by letters patent dated Dec. 31, 1711. In the year 1742, his lordship was sworn one of the privy council, and the same day appointed captain of the band

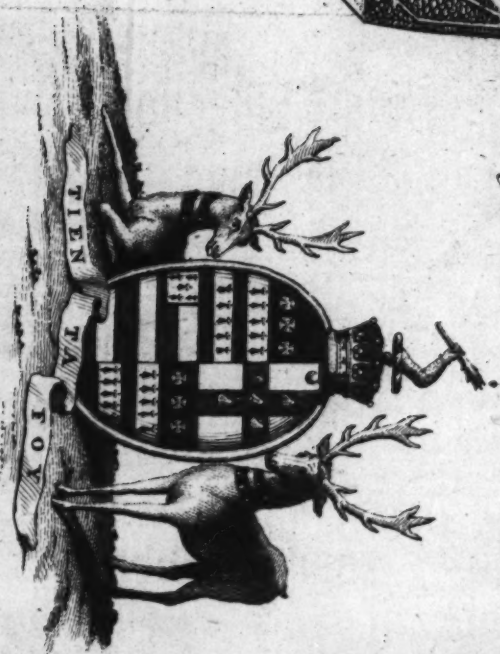
purchased a large one, adjoining to it, of sir Robert Atkins ; and taking down the old house, built

band of gentlemen pensioners, but resigned his office in 1744. In 1757, he was constituted treasurer to his present majesty, then prince of Wales, at whose accession to the throne, he was continued in the list of privy counsellors, but declined accepting of any employment, on account of his great age. His lordship married Catherine, daughter and heir of sir Peter Apsley, son and heir of sir Allen aforementioned, by whom he had issue four sons and five daughters. Her ladyship died in the year 1768, aged 79, and was buried in a vault in Cirencester church.—Benjamin, the eldest son, born Aug. 12, 1711, married Elizabeth, second daughter to Charles lord Bruce. He was chosen one of the knights of the shire for the county of Gloucester, in the 8th parliament of Great Britain, and was also chosen one of the members for the borough of Cirencester, in the year 1754. He died without issue Jan. 23, 1767 ; and his lady died Nov. 11, 1771, and both are buried at Siddington St. Peter.—Henry Bathurst, his lordship's second son, applying himself to the study of the law, soon became eminent in his profession, and was successively appointed solicitor-general and attorney-general to Frederick prince of Wales. On the 2d of May, 1754, he was made a serjeant at law, and one of the justices of the court of common pleas ; 'till when, by successive re-elections, he had sat in parliament for the borough of Cirencester from the year 1735. In 1770, he was appointed one of the lords commissioners of the great seal ; and his majesty was also pleased to advance him to the dignity of a baron, by the title of baron Apsley on the 22d day of January, 1771 ; having on the 12th day of the same month, appointed him to the important office of lord high chancellor of Great Britain ; which office he continues to discharge with great abilities and honour. His lordship married Anne, daughter and heir of — James, esq; who dying without issue, he wedded, secondly, Tryphena, daughter of Thomas Scawen, of Maidwell, in Northamptonshire, by whom he has issue two sons and three daughters.—John Bathurst, third son of Allen earl of Bathurst, resides at Saperton in this county, and remains unmarried.—Allen, the fourth son, was fellow of New-college, Oxford, and rector of
Beverstone

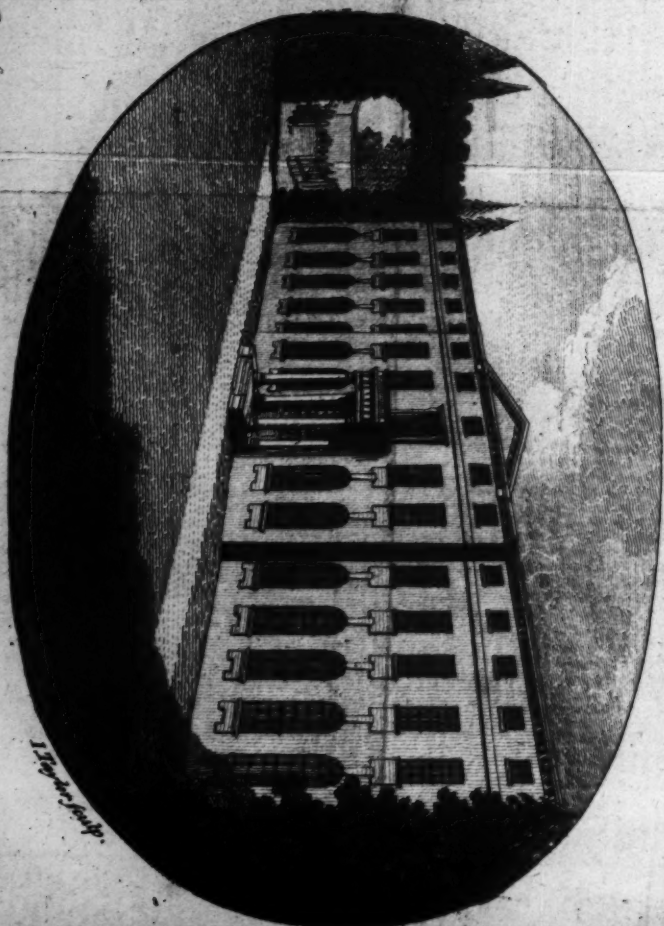
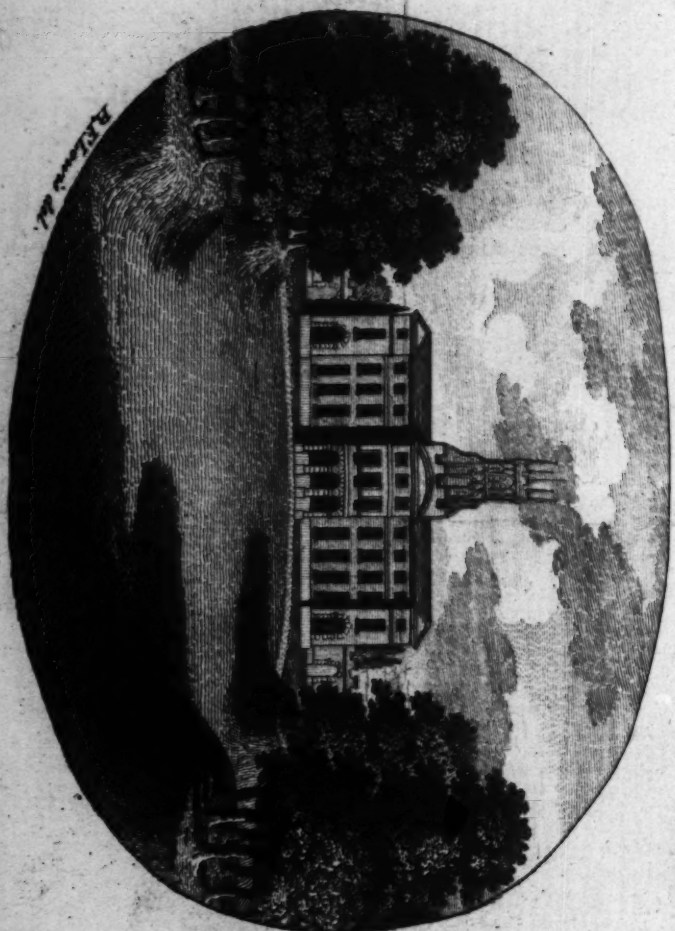
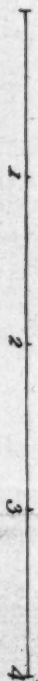
F. Hope Temple



D. Hanyon

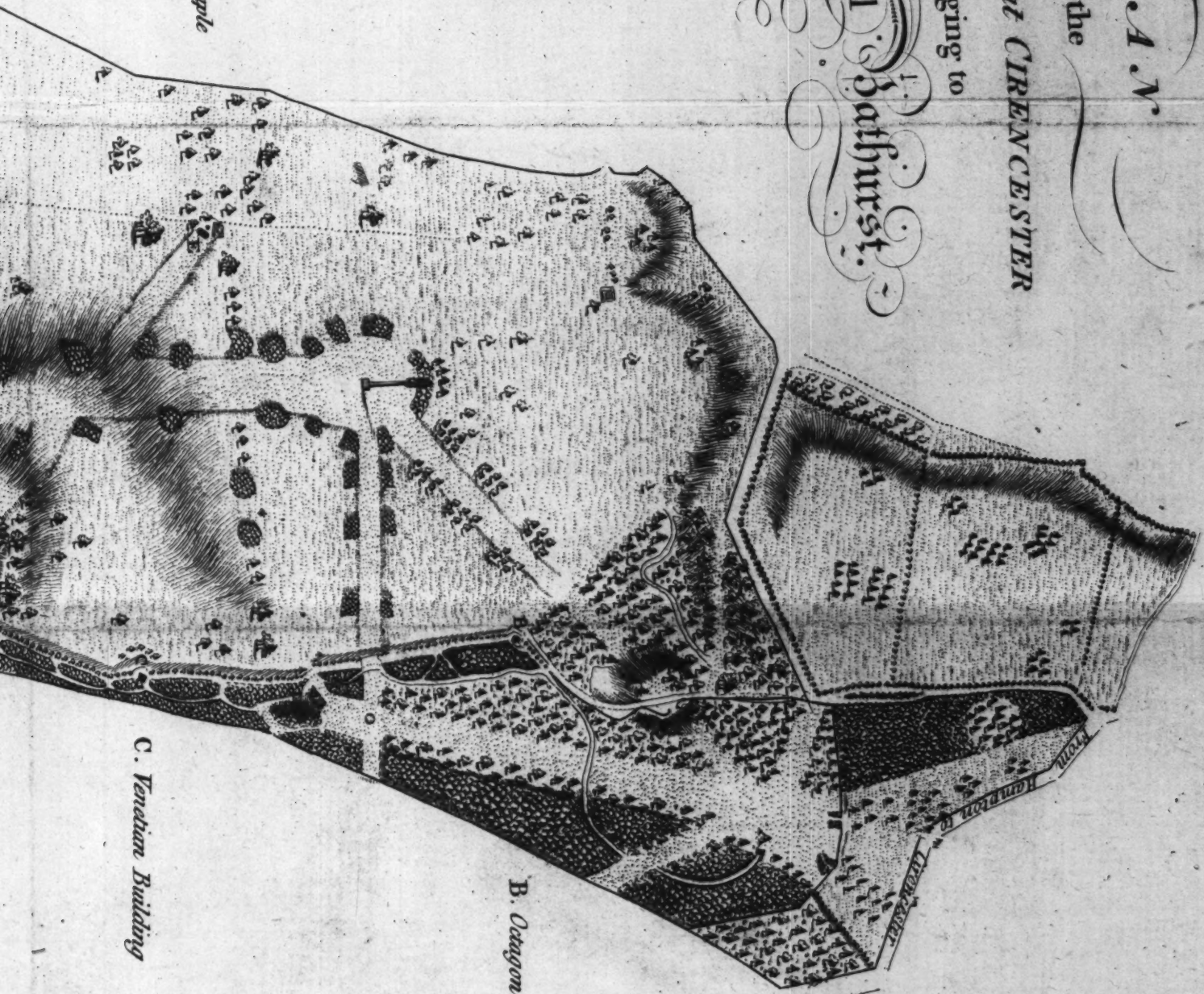
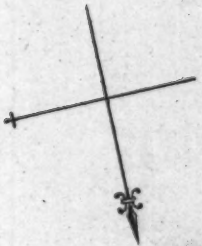


Scale of Furlongs.



Views of the House at Worcester

P.L.A.V.
of the
HOME PARK at CIRENCESTER
belonging to
Herbert Earl Bathurst.



C. Venetian Building

B. Octagon

A. Pope's Seat

built the present mansion upon the site of it. It has a free-stone front next the town, but a high wall, lined with ever-greens, prevents the view on that side.

This seat is distinguished by its extensive and elegant plantations. The park is well stock'd with deer. The entrance to it is at a lodge on the north side of the house, by a spacious gravel-walk, lined on each side with a row of stately elms. At a small distance from the entrance, to the left, is an oblique prospect of the north-west front of the house, with a fine sweep of lawn before it, and a grove of lofty trees on either side. Turning to the right, the walk divides; one branch of it

Beverstone and Saperton in this county. He died unmarried, in the year 1768. — His lordship's five daughters were 1. Frances, married first to William Woodhouse, esq; who died knight of the shire for Norfolk, May 31, 1735; secondly, to James Whitshed, of Hampton Court in Middlesex, esq; one of the present representatives of this borough. — 2. Catharine, married to Henry-Reginald Courtney, esq; brother to sir William Courtney, bar^t. afterwards created viscount Courtney. — 3. Jane, married to John Buller, of Morvall, in Cornwall, esq; and knight in parliament for that county. — 4. Leonora, married to colonel Edward Urmstone, of the first regiment of foot-guards, now a major-general. — And 5. Anne, married to the reverend James Benson, LL. D. the present chancellor of the diocese of Gloucester.

In consideration of his lordship's great merits, his majesty was pleased to advance him to the dignity of an earl, by the title of Earl of Bathurst, of Bathurst in Suffex, by letters patents dated Aug. 12, 1772.

His lordship's arms are, *Sable, two bars ermine, in chief three crosses pattee Or.* CREST. *On a wreath, a dexter arm in mail embowed, holding a club with spikes, all proper.* SUPPORTERS. *Two stags argent, each gorged with a collar gemel ermine.* MOTTO. TIEN TA FOY.

H

leads

leads to the terras, the other runs by the side of it, in a serpentine direction, above a mile in length, finely arched and shaded by the plantation through which it passes. At suitable distances it communicates with the terras, where are several buildings and benches for the convenience of resting and prospect. At the end of the serpentine walk is a small building, called *Pope's Seat*, perhaps because that great genius frequently retired thither, when he visited his noble friend at Cirencester. There is a lawn before it, to the centre of which eight vistas are directed, which terminate with the prospect of neighbouring churches, and other agreeable objects. One of those objects is a fine lofty column in the midst of the deer-park, on which is placed the statue of queen Anne, larger than life. This pillar is near a mile distant from the house, behind which stands the beautiful tower of the parish church of Cirencester, so directly in the centre of it, with their fronts parallel to each other, that an observer at the pillar might be easily induced to believe the tower to be a part of his lordship's house, were it not of a different colour.

The terras is sheltered on the north-east by a thick plantation of wood, with a most agreeable border, or lining, of shrubs and evergreens. It commands a distant prospect of the north of Wiltshire, and terminates at a handsome octagonal building, about a mile from the house. In the middle

middle of the terras is a large pair of gates, for a communication between the deer and lodge-parks. At these gates is seen a large lake of water, a little to the right of the house, which looks like a part of a considerable river; but 'tis only a pleasing deception, for nature hath dealt her favours to this place with so sparing a hand as to that element, that there is not perhaps a perennial spring to be found within it. This agreeable effect is produced by planting clumps of trees to conceal the extremities of the lake, which is one of the numberless instances of that fine taste, every where to be seen in the disposition of this place, all laid out and perfected in the manner we now see it, in the life-time, and by the particular directions of the noble proprietor. The eye is no where offended with the appearance of bare walls, nor can it judge of the extent of the park, as the country about it is taken into view, over fosses and concealed boundaries made for that purpose, where they have the best effect.

Adjoining to the deer-park westward, are the lodge-park, and Oakley Woods, particularly meriting the traveller's attention. Of these I have attempted a short description under the titling of Oakley. I now return to Cirencester.

As to the other estates in Cirencester, mentioned in *Domesday-book* to be held by lay-men, it is impossible for me to give a distinct account of the descent of them; but I apprehend a part was

granted to the abbey-church, of which hereafter, and a part passed in the following manner.

Ralph Cufon was seized of twenty acres in Cirencester 3 H. 3. and Jeffry de Erchebald, whom I take to be a descendant of the free man mentioned in *Domesday-book*, held an estate in Cirencester 36 H. 3. William Erchbald, a descendant of the said Jeffry, was found to be a free tenant here, by the escheator's inquisition, 4 H. 4. Philip Smith and Agnes his wife levied a fine of lands in Cirencester and Chesterton, to the use of sir Giles Bruges, 17 H. 7. and sir Edward Seymour, son of Edward duke of Somerset and the lady Catharine his wife, levied a fine of lands in Cirencester, to the use of the king, 7 E. 6. They are now divided between a great number of proprietors.

TITHINGS and HAMLETS.

There are five tithings, or hamlets, in this parish, all in the hundred of the *Out-Torn*, or *Crowthorne and Minety*, of the following names, viz. 1. *Spital-gate*, now vulgarly and corruptly called *Spiringate-tithing*. 2. *Wiggold*. 3. *Chesterton*. 4. *Barton*. 5. *Oakley*.

1. *Spital-gate* tithing lies on the north and east sides of the town. The abbey of Cirencester had its *hospitium*, for the entertainment of strangers; and the entrance to that part of the abbey was called the *Spital-gate*. This gate gave denomination to the tithing in which it stands, and to an adjoining

adjoining farm. There are other lands in this tithing, called the *Almery-farm*, from the *almery* of the abbey, to which it belonged. The *Almery-gate* is also standing. Both these farms were granted to Richard Master 6 Eliz. and are now the property of Thomas Master, esq; who has a fine seat, with handsome gardens in this tithing, built on, or near, the site of the antient abbey, and therefore called the *Abbey-House*, of which more may be seen in the account of the abbey.

2. *Wiggold* lies on the north-east of the town, beyond the forementioned tithing. John Bisset, chief forester of England, died seized of Wiggold 25 H. 3. His wife Alice survived him, and held Wiggold in dower. After her death, the manor descended to his four daughters; Margaret, married to Richard de Rivers; Ela, Isabel, and Edith; which last was called Edith lady of Wiggold. Roger Normand purchased a charter of free-warren in this manor 9 E. 3. which was confirmed 15 R. 2. William Boys and others held lands in Wiggold and Cirencester 32 E. 3. Sir William Nottingham was seized of this manor 1 R. 3. and William Pole and Anne his wife levied a fine of it to George Prater 3 E. 6. Mr. Talbot and Mr. Grey were proprietors of it in the year 1711, but Mr. Talbot and Mr. Townsend are the present lords of this manor. The tithes of Wiggold, belonging formerly to the abbey of Cirencester, were granted to Thomas Erskyn, viscount Fenton, 5 Jac. but

but Thomas Master, esq; is the present impropiator. The tithe of hay, and all privy tithes, belong to the minister of the parish.

3. *Chesterton*, situate on the south and south-east sides of the borough, the name of which has in it a kind of evidence of its antiquity; for the Saxon *Leartre*, (and so our *Chester*,) comes plainly from the Roman *Castrum*; and Mr. Burton has observed, that the name is given to such places only where the Romans built their *Castra*. But the antiquities found in this tithing have already been largely spoken of in the former part of this account, under the name of the *Leaufes*, which lie within it; to which the reader is referred.

Jeffry Langley was seized of Chesterton 2 E. 1. Edmond Langley held this manor of Henry earl of Lancaster, by the third part of a knight's fee, 2 E. 3. John Langley was seized of it 38 & 39 H. 6. Isabel, the widow of Walter Langley, held this manor 14 E. 4. It afterwards descended to William Arundel, as heir to his father, 20 Eliz. and he had livery granted to him the same year.

Robert D'Oiley, son of Nigel, gave the tithes of Chesterton to the monks of St. Peter of Gloucester, when Serlo was abbat. Sir John Nelthorp is the present impropiator. The tithe of hay and privy tithes belong to the minister, as in Wiggold.

The earl of Bathurst, Thomas Master, esq; and the reverend Mr. Thomas Coxe, have very considerable estates in this tithing.

4. *Barton-*

4. *Barton-tithing* includes a considerable tract of land on the west side of the town, besides the Barton-farm ; which great farm belonged to the abbey of Cirencester, and was granted to Richard Berners 36 H. 8. and livery of it was granted to Gerard Croker 15 Eliz. It was vested in fir Richard Onslow, speaker of the house of commons, during part of queen Anne's reign, who sold it to Allen Bathurst, esq; now earl of Bathurst, the present possessor, whose deer park lies in this tithing.

5. *Oakley-tithing* lies further westward of the town. Of this place *Domesday-book* gives the following account :

‘ Roger de Laci holds Achelie. There is one
‘ hide and a half. Leuvinus held it, now Girard
‘ holds it of Roger. There are two plow-tillages
‘ in demean, and two villeins, with a priest, having
‘ two plow-tillages and a half. There are nine
‘ *servi*. It was worth 4*l.* now 3*l.*’ *D. B.* p. 75.

‘ Gislebert the son of Turoid holds one hide in
‘ Achelie of the king, and Ofulf holds it of him.
‘ Keneuard held it in the time of king Edward.
‘ There are two plow-tillages in demean, and three
‘ bordars, and six *servi*. It was worth 40*s.* now
‘ [only] 30*s.*’ *Domesday-book*, p. 76.

‘ Turstin the son of Rolf holds one hide in
‘ Achelie. Brietric held it for a manor of king
‘ Edward. There is one plow-tillage in demean,
‘ and three villeins with three plow-tillages. There
‘ are

'are six *servi*, and four acres of meadow. It was
'worth and is now worth 50s. Girvius holds it
'of Turstin.' p. 78. Thus far *Domesday-book*.

In the exemplification of the charter of king Henry the First to the church of Cirencester, it is thus expressed : 'I have also granted a water-course, and the wood called Acley, with the forest, and all its lands, and I retain to myself nothing out of the wood besides my hunting ; and the abbat may not plow up [or assart] any part of it.'

This estate was part of the possessions of the abbey 'till its dissolution. Sir Thomas Seymour, uncle to king Edward the Sixth, obtained a grant of Oakley woods, in the first year of that king's reign ; but he being attainted, they were granted to John duke of Northumberland 6 E. 6. after whose attainder, they reverted to the crown, and were again granted, 2 Eliz. to sir Thomas Parry, who died seized thereof 6 Eliz. and his son had livery granted him the same year. The last mentioned family sold them to sir John Danvers, who was possessed of them 37 Eliz. at the time of his death. They were afterwards purchased by sir Henry Pool, whose son, sir William Pool, sold them to sir Robert Atkyns of Saperton, of whom they were bought by the earl of Bathurst, the present proprietor of them, and of the whole of this extensive tithing.

The truffle is a vegetable production found in sufficient abundance in Oakley woods.

These woods deserve our particular notice. Near the middle of them, on a rising ground, is the point from which, like so many *radii*, ten cuts or ridings issue. The largest, about fifty yards wide, has the lofty tower of Cirencester to terminate the view; others, directed to neighbouring country churches, clumps of trees, and various distant objects, produce an admirable effect. Concealed as it were in the wood, stands Alfred's-hall, a building that has the semblance of great antiquity, with a bowling-green, and many beautiful lawns and agreeable walks about it. Over the door opposite to the south entrance, on the inside, is the following inscription, in the Saxon character and language:

Dir is þ þryþe þ Ælfred cýnning 7 gýðrun
cýnning 7 ealler angeleýnner witan. 7 ealreo
ðeod þe on earþenlum be oþ ealle gecweden
habbaþ 7 mid aþum gefæfestrnod for hi selpe
7 for heora gýngan. ge for geborene ge for
ungeborene ðe goder miltre wecce oþþe ure;

Æfter ymb ure landgemæra up on temere
7 ðonne up on ligan 7 andlang ligan oþ hure
æpýlm ðonne on gewihte to beðanforða ðon up
on uran oþ wætlingsahtæt;

Over the south door is the following Latin translation:

FOEDUS quod Ælfredus & Gythrunus reges, omnes Angli sapientes, & quicunq; Angliam incolebant orientalem, ferierunt; & non solum de seipsis, verum etiam de natis suis, ac nondum in lucem editis, quotquot misericordiæ divinæ aut regiæ velint esse participes jurejurando sanxerunt.

Primò ditionis nostræ fines ad Thamesin evebuntur, inde ad Leam usq; ad fontem ejus; tum rectà ad Bedfordiam, ac deniq; per Usam ad viam Vetelingianam.

Behind this building is a ruin, with a stone over the chimney-piece, on which, in antient characters relieved on the stone, is this inscription :

IN · MEM · ALFREDI ·

REG · RESTAVR:

ANO · DO · 1085.

It would have been inexcusable in the topographer to have passed by so curious a place without notice; but the historian would have been equally culpable, who should not have informed the reader, that this building is an excellent imitation of antiquity. The name, the inscription, and the writing over the doors, of the convention between the good king and his pagan enemies, were probably all suggested by the similarity of
Abelie,

Achelie, the antient name of this place, to *Æglea*^f, where king Alfred rested with his army, the night before he attacked the Danish camp at Ethandun, and at length forced their leader Godrum, or Guthrum, or Gormund, to make such convention.

Windsor, Richmond, and Stow have been sung by their respective bards; so the park and woods of this place are the subject of a short descriptive poem, by Mr. Edward Stephens, not wholly destitute of sentiment.

Of the Abbey.

King Henry the First built the abbey church, which he began in the year 1117, and compleatly finished it in fourteen years. This church was dedicated to St. Mary and St. James. But before the conquest, here was a rich college of prebendaries, says Leland, *but of what Saxon's foundation no man can tell*. It was antiently endowed with lands and possessions, of which *Domesday-book* gives the following account:

‘ The church of Cirecestre holds of the king
‘ two hides in Cirecestre hundred in elemosinage,
‘ and held them of king Edward quit from all

^f Diluculo sequenti illucescente, rex inde castra commovens, venit ad locum qui dicitur *Æglea*, et ibi una nocte castrametatus est. Inde, sequenti mane illucescente, vexilla commovens, ad locum qui dicitur *Ethandun* venit; et contra universum paganorum exercitum, cum densa testudine, atrociter belligerans, animoseque diu persistens, divino nutu tandem victoria potitus, &c. *Asserius de Rebus Gestis Ælfredi*. Editio T. Wise. p. 34.

‘ custom. There are six acres of meadow. This
‘ is now, and was then worth 40s.’ *D. B.* p. 73.

And further in the same book, in the register of lands belonging to Roger de Laci, at Wiche, now Painswick, in Bisley hundred, it is also recorded, that ‘ Saint Mary of Cirecestre holds one
‘ vill (as I read it) and part of a wood in this
‘ estate. King William granted it to her. It is
‘ worth 10s.’ p. 75.

Rumbaldus, a priest, and a very eminent person of his time, was dean of this collegiate church. He was also chancellor to king Edward the confessor, and, as such, set his hand to witness the charter of privileges granted by that king to the abbey of Westminster^s. Beside his ecclesiastical and other preferments, he held in this county four hides in Amney, seven in Driffild, one in Northcote, and eight in Preston, and in other counties very considerable estates, which, at his death, devolved to the crown.

King Henry having placed regular canons in the abbey church, and obtained pope Innocent’s licence, and the consent and approbation of the archbishops, bishops, princes, and barons of the kingdom, as I find it expressed in the exemplification of his charter, (*Appendix*, N^o. 3.) endowed it, among other things, with all Rumbald’s estates. And king Richard the First further increased its

^s For many of these particulars see *Leland’s Itin.* v. 2, p. 22. and v. 5, p. 62.

revenues, in the 9th year of his reign, by annexing to it the jurisdiction of the seven hundreds, as will appear by the exemplification of that king's charter, 4 H. 4. an abstract of which is given in the account of the manor and hundreds, to which the reader is referred. And king John, in the first year of his reign, confirmed all these grants to the abbey by his charter, which see also in the *Appendix*, N°. 4.

There was a rent of 30*l.* a year reserved out of the manor of Cirencester, and the seven hundreds, to be paid into the exchequer at Michaelmas, which was settled, by king Edward the First, on queen Margaret, as part of her dower. This rent was afterwards granted to Edmond de Woodstock, the king's brother, 13 E. 2. and again, 1 E. 3. to Edmond earl of Kent, who was beheaded at Winchester. And John earl of Kent was seized of the same rent 26 E. 3.

The lands of William of Cirencester, in Minety, were granted to this monastery 5 Joh. and a new farm was granted to it in the 17th year of the same reign.

The abbat of Cirencester held Crinklewood, containing thirty acres, 9 E. 2. And Walter Wrilock and others granted two messuages, one toft, twenty-six acres, a yard-land, four acres of meadow, with other particulars, to the abbey 13 E. 2. William Erchebald and others, for the church of Cirencester, were seized of seventeen messuages and twenty acres in Cirencester, 16 R. 2. This

This monastery obtained a grant of a fair 17 Joh. and it had another grant of fairs in the town of Cirencester 37 H. 3. and of markets there, and in the seven hundreds, 42 H. 3.

I have already observed, in the account of the manor, &c. that a writ of *Quo warranto* was brought against the abbat, for the hundreds, 15 E. 1. So there was another large and strict inquisition issued against him 1 H. 4. for usurping divers privileges in the towns of Cirencester and Minety, and in the seven hundreds. But I apprehend these were mostly vexatious proceedings, to extort money from the subject for new grants; which were thought necessary in those times, when by casualties in the civil wars, or otherwise, any of the possessor's deeds and evidences happened to be lost or destroyed.

The extent of the abbat's jurisdiction in the manor court of Hatherop, was particularly specified, and mutually settled and agreed, by a composition between Hugh the abbat, and convent of Cirencester, and Wymark the prioress and the convent of Laycock, to whom that manor belonged; which composition is preserved in the *Appendix to Stevens's Supplement to the Monasticon*, N^o. 445.

There was a deed made in the year 1305, between the abbat of Cirencester and John de Latton, an ancestor of a family of that name at Kingston Bagpaze, in Berkshire. This deed is taken notice of by sir Robert Atkyns, as remarkable for the abbat's

abbat's concessions to the other party ; and as there is a translation of it in fir Robert's book, I have also inserted a copy of that translation in the *Appendix*, N°. 2.

The following is a List of the Abbats, from Mr. Willis's History of the Mitred Parliamentary Abbies.

1. Serlo, the fourth dean of Salisbury, was made the first abbat after the foundation, *anno* 1117. He died *anno* 1147, and was succeeded by

2. Andrew, who died *anno* 1176, and had for his successor,

3. Adam, prior of Bardney. He died *anno* 1183, and

4. Robert, canon of Cirencester, succeeded ; who dying the same year, the convent elected another

5. Robert for their abbat ; upon whose death, which happened *anno* 1187,

6. Richard, prior of St. Gregory's, Canterbury, succeeded. He died *anno* 1213 ; in which year,

7. Alexander Nequam, *alias* Neccham, was made abbat. He was a very learned man, and greatly renowned for his skill in poetry, and all sorts of literature. See an account of him in Leland, and Bale *de Scriptoribus*. Weever says he was buried in St. Alban's abbey, tho', with better authority, other historians mention his interment in the cloysters of the cathedral church at Worcester, with this epitaph :

*Ecclipsim patitur sapientia, sol sepelitur,
Qui dum vivebat studii genus omne vigeat.
Solvitur in cineres Neccham. Cui si foret hæres
In terris unus, minus esset flebile funus.*

The year after his death, which happened *anno* 1227, or, as in Willis, 1217,

8. Walter, or, as some records have it, Richard, was elected abbat. He died 1230, whereupon

9. Hugh de Bampton, *alias* Bathon, who is elsewhere called Henry, succeeded. He died *anno* 1238, and was succeeded by

10. Roger de Rodmarton. He died *anno* 1266, and was succeeded by

11. Henry

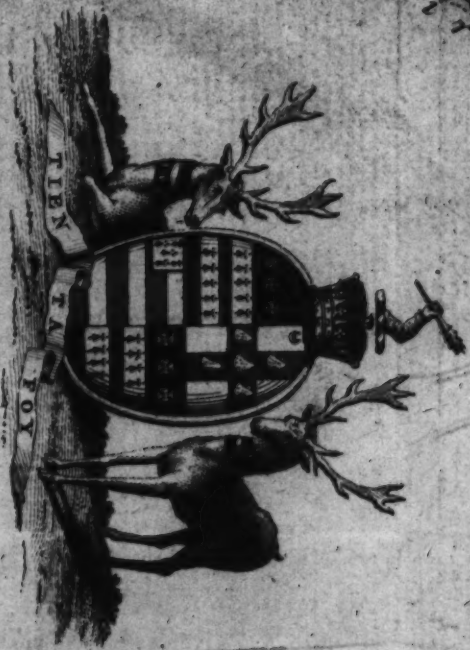
11. Henry de Munden, to whose election the king consented Oct. 10, 1266. I don't find when he died, but *anno* 1281,
12. Henry de Hamptonel was made abbat. He died Nov. 2, 1307, eleven days after which,
13. Adam Brokenbury was elected abbat; but his election was vacated 'till the 3d of December, at which time he obtained a confirmation of it. He died *anno* 1319, and was succeeded by
14. Richard de Charleton, on whose resignation, *anno* 1334,
15. William Hereward was admitted abbat. He died Apr. 25, 1352, and was succeeded by
16. Ralph de Estcote, who dying *anno* 1357, was succeeded by
17. William de Marteley, or Martelege. He died *anno* 1361, and was succeeded by
18. William de Dinton, who dying *anno* 1363, was succeeded by
19. Nicholas de Ameney, who dying *anno* 1394, was succeeded by
20. John Lekhampton. His successor was
21. William Best, *anno* 1416. He procured to himself and successors, the use of the mitre and pontificals, and dying 1429,
22. William Wotton obtained the benediction, Mar. 5, 1429. On his death, 1440,
23. John Taunton was consecrated abbat the same year, and dying *anno* 1445, had for his successor,
24. William George, who received the benediction April 10, 1445, at Pershore. He died *anno* 1461, whereupon
25. John Solbury, or Sadbury, received the benediction at Alnchurch, Oct. 13, 1461. I find not when he died, but *anno* 1478,
26. Thomas Compton occurs abbat. He died Oct. 11, 1481, and was succeeded by
27. Richard Clyve, elected Oct. 25, and confirmed Nov. 5, 1481. He was succeeded 1488, by
28. Thomas Aston, confirmed abbat, in the bishop of Worcester's chapel in the Strand, London, October 22, 1488. He resigned *anno* 1504, and was succeeded by
29. John Hakeborne, or Haukebourne, who was confirmed abbat December 7, 1504; of whom Anthony a Wood tells us, that in the year 1500, being then prior of St. Mary's college in Oxford, he commenced Batchelor of Divinity, and afterwards Doctor, and dying about the year 1522, was succeeded by
30. John Blake, the last abbat. In the year 1534, he subscribed to the king's supremacy, with Richard Ciceter, prior, Will. Cerney, and other monks of his house, in number sixteen.

This



The Round Tower

Scale of Furlongs.
1 2 3



Views of Alfredo Hall.

PLAN of OAKLEY GREAT PARK belonging to
Henry Earl Bathurst.



This abbey was surrendered to the commissioners on the 29th of December, 1539, 31 H. 8. according to Mr. Willis's emendations, inserted after the index, in his *History of Parliamentary Mitred Abbies*; where I find the following account of the pensions assigned to the abbat and the religious of this monastery. ' John Blake, late abbat, 250*l.* Richard Woodwall, late prior, ' 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* William Warbot, late cellerer, 8*l.* ' William Philips, vicar of the parish church of ' Cirester, *nihil*; *declaratur in pede*. Thomas ' Fisher, Thomas Hedde, John Ruffel, John ' Walle, William More, Richard Bolle, John ' Straunge, Thomas Logger, Anthony Chilcoke, ' Henry Hawks, James Plebeien, William Smyth, ' 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* each. Richard Lane, 5*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* ' ——— Memorandum, That William Philippes ' abovenamed, is assigned to the Vicarage & Cure ' of the Parish of Cirester, with the hole Tithes ' of Woolle, Lambe, Hey, Oblations, Alterages ' and all other Profitts bilonging to the same ' Church: The Tithes of the Domayne-Lands, ' latelie being in Occupation of the late Abbot and ' Convent there, only excepted. Yeldinge, ther- ' fore, unto the King's Majestie, in Consideration, ' the same Vicar shall be charged with the finding ' of three Preists besydes hymself to mynister there, ' also shall finde Wyne and Wax at his propre ' Costs and Charges Yerely, 53*s.* 4*d.* And so the ' said Vicar shall have a reasonable Living and a
K ' convenyant

convenyant Portion of the Profitts of the said Church, the Quantitle of the Cure there Duellie considered.

Robert Southwell.	John London.
Edward Carne.	Rychard Poulet.
Ric. Gwent.	Will. Berners.

This was a mitred abbey. The abbat was summoned to parliament 43 H. 3. but had not a stated seat there till William Best obtained the mitre, and a seat among the barons, for himself and successors, in the year 1416. The abbey was valued, at the time of its dissolution, at 105*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* ob. as I find it in Stevens's Supplement to the Monasticon.

The abbat had the privilege of coinage. I have seen a brass piece, something smaller than a copper halfpenny, which was found in the year 1772, in Mr. Master's garden. On one side was a coronet, charged with *three rams heads*, (part of the arms of the abbey) and round it this inscription, AVE MARIA · GRACIA · PLEN · On the reverse, *a cross flory between four fleurs de lis*; and round the quarters the letters ·G· ·A· ·G· ·A· for *George, Abbas*. From which it appears, that it was coined between the years 1445 and 1461, during which time William George was abbat.

Leland, who had seen the abbey church, says, *The East part of the Church shewith to be of a very old building. The West part, from the Transeptum, [the great cross aile] is but new Work to speke of.* The whole

whole fabric was probably demolished soon after the surrender, and the materials were so totally removed, that the precise place where it stood was soon forgotten; but there are two gates, the *Spital-gate* and the *Almery-gate*, belonging to the abbey buildings, and the abbey barn, still remaining. Mr. Willis conjectures that the abbey stood on the north side of the parish church, which was, no doubt, says he, set within part of the abbey cemetery. He has given the following dimensions of the abbey church, from William of Worcester's MS. in Bennet-college, Cambridge. *viz.*

The length of the great church contains 140 steppys, the breadth of the nave of the church 41 steppys, with two ailes; or 24 yards. The chapel of the blessed Mary on the south part of the church contains 41 yards, with an aile adjoining. The breadth of the said antient chapel contains 21 grassus, with the antient aile. The length of the cloister 52 grassus. The length of the chapter-house 14 yards and 10 yards in breadth.—The grassus, or step, is about two feet.

In the Body of the [abbey] Chirch, says Leland, in a Sepulchre Crosse of white Marble is this [inscription,] Hic jacet Rembaldus Presbyter quondam hujus Ecclesiæ Decanus [et Tempore Edwardi Regis Angliæ Cancellarius^b.] Ther ly 2 Noblemen of S.

^b Leland's Itin. v. 5, p. 62.

Amandes buried withyn the Presbyterie of Cirencestre Abbey Church. And there is buried the Hart of Sentia, Wife to Richard King of [the] Romans, and Erle of Cornwalle. Sir Robert Atkyns was greatly mistaken in representing these particulars as belonging to the present parish church, instead of the abbey.

The arms of the abbey were, *Gules, on a chevron argent three rams heads caboshed sable, attired Or.*

The site of the abbey was granted, Aug. 19, 1 E. 6. to Thomas lord Seymour, with lands in fifteen shires, to be held *in capite* by the service of one knight's-fee, paying 1*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*¹ But on his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was afterwards granted to Richard Master, 6 Eliz. and is now the property of Thomas Master, esq;^k who has an elegant house and gardens on the site of the abbey, and a large estate adjoining.

One

¹ Stevens's Supplement to the Monasticon, from Fuller's History of Abbies, p. 364.

^k Richard Master of Cirencester, ancestor to the present possessor, was descended from the family of Master in Kent. He was physician to queen Elizabeth, and married Elizabeth daughter of ——— Tunnely of Lincolnshire.

George Master, esq; son of Richard, married Bridget, daughter and heiress of John Cornwall, of Marlborough in Wiltshire.

Sir William Master, son of George, married Alice daughter of Edward Estcourt, of Salisbury, esq. He was high sheriff of Gloucestershire 3 Car. 1, 1627, and was a person of great worth and loyalty. He served in parliament for the borough of Cirencester, and lies buried in the church of that place.

Thomas Master, esq; son of sir William, married Elizabeth sister of sir Thomas Dyke, of Suffex. He died 1680, and lyes buried

One hundred fifty two messuages lying in the town of Cirencester, and which formerly belonged to the abbey, were granted to John Polland and William Birt 36 H. 8. St. Mary's-Mill (at the first bridge, now taken down) and Barton-Mill, formerly belonging to the abbey, were granted to James Woodford and Thomas Woodford 2 Eliz. Bridgbury-farm in Cirencester, also belonging to the abbey, was granted to Percival Bowes and John Mosier 10 Eliz.

Thus far of the *town* and *abbey*. The register and other books belonging to the abbey, which might have given further light into the antient affairs of this place, are supposed to be lost. Doctor Tanner had not seen them, and the editor of this account, after diligent inquiry, has not been able to get the least information concerning them.

buried near his father in Cirencester church. He also served in parliament for that borough.

Thomas Master, son of Thomas, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Driver, of Aston, and has likewise served in parliament for the said borough.

Thomas Master, son of the last Thomas, married Joan, daughter and heiress of Jasper Chapman, of Stratton, esq; who before his death gave this estate to his son,

Thomas Master, esq; who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of sir Thomas Cann, bar^t. and dying the latter end of May, 1749, left issue by the said Elizabeth, two sons, Thomas and Richard, and one daughter Elizabeth.

Thomas Master, son of the last Thomas and Elizabeth, the present proprietor of the abbey estate, married Elizabeth daughter of James-Lenox Dutton, of Sherbourn in this county, esq. His arms are, *Gules, a lion rampant gardent, his tail double Or, holding in his paws, a rose Argent.*

Of

Of the Church, &c.

The church is in the deanery of Cirencester. The bishop of the diocese is patron of the curacy, which, with various augmentations and perquisites, is now of considerable value. The particulars of the several donations to it stand under the head *Benefactions*.

The rectory of Cirencester, and the advowson of the vicarage, were granted to sir Thomas Tresham and George Tresham 5 E. 6. But William Bourchier, of Barnsley, esq; died seized of the rectory in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, and livery thereof was granted to his son Thomas Bourchier the same year. The impropriations of Chesterton and Wiggold are already taken notice of under those tithings.

A portion of tithes called Archebalds, formerly belonging to the abbey of Cirencester, were granted to Francis Philips and Richard Moor 6 Jac.

There have been three parish churches in this town, one dedicated to St. Cecilia, which was intirely down in Leland's time; the church of St. Lawrence is still standing, but now converted into small tenements. The third is the present parish church, dedicated to St. John the evangelist. It is a large and beautiful building, consisting of the nave, two large ailes, and five chapels. The roof is supported by two rows of stone pillars, very handsomely fluted. There are five pillars and

and two pillasters in each row. The length of the nave is 77 feet, and the breadth of the church, including the two ailes, 74 feet. Over the pillars are the busts of several benefactors to the church, with proper scutcheons, arms, and devices. The first two (one in each row) next the chancel, are for Thomas Ruthal, bishop of Durham, with the arms of his see impaling his own paternal coat. He was a native of Cirencester, and was consecrated bishop of Durham 1 H. 8.——The next figure in each row, represents John Hakebourne, twenty-ninth abbat of Cirencester; one scutcheon bears the arms of his abbey; on the other is *a mitre pierced with a crozier*, to shew that his abbey was a mitred one; and upon both are I. H. the initial letters of his name.——The arms over the third pillar, in one row, *Quarterly 1st. and 4th. two lioncels passant; 2d. and 3d. a chevron.* On the other, *a wyvern in combat with a lion*, a crescent for distinction.——Over the fourth pillar on one side R R; on the other row, *a cross moline* between the letters I. P.——Over a fifth pillar are the letters H. G. and the scutcheon opposite to it has *three greyhounds palewise courant.*——The arms of the town stand near the top of the fourth pillar; and other devices, among which are the crown of thorns and instruments of crucifixion, are arranged over the arches.

These circumstances shew that the nave of the church, and probably all westward, including the tower,

tower, was rebuilt when John Hakebourne was abbat, viz. between the years 1504 and 1522. But the original church was built long before, for there are monumental inscriptions still remaining, of dates almost a hundred years prior to abbat Hakebourne's government. The arms of bishop Ruthal, placed among those of the benefactors to this church, is so strong a circumstance of his having contributed to the rebuilding of it, that I cannot assent to Leland, who says, he *promisid much, but preventid with Deth gave nothing.*

The windows were very curiously painted, but they have suffered from bigots and bungling workmen. Those on the south side are best preserved, and of those the great one on the right of the entrance is most intire. This consists of three ranges of figures, of four compartments each. The principal figures in the uppermost, are three of the antient fathers of the church, and the Pope. They stand in the following order, 1st. *St. Augustine*, 2d. *St. Jerom*, 3d. *the Pope*, 4th. *St. Ambrose*. The names of the fathers are written beneath; but the Pope is distinguished only by his *tiara*, or tripple crown. Under *St. Augustine*, in the same compartment, is a figure kneeling, with a scroll round his head, whereon is written *Scs Augustinus¹ ora pro nobis.* His name, *Willm' Hampton*, stands at foot, to shew that he was the

¹ Not *Scs Augustine*, which I observe, lest the reader should think the above an error of the press.

donor of this light, or compartment of the window. There are also figures at the feet of the other fathers, with their names thus written, *Iobes Hampton & ux ei*; *Willm' Okyn & Iohana ux. eiusd*; *Will. Colsburn Bower & Alicia Iohana*. These gave the respective compartments in which they are placed.—The principal figures in the second range are, 1st. *St. Catherine*, 2d. *St. Margaret*, 3d. *St. Dorothy*, 4th. defaced. They have all scrolls round them, upon which portions of scripture, in Latin, are written in old character; and the donor of each compartment is placed, with his name, under the principal figure.—The figures in the four lights of the lower range are, *Sc's de Beu'laco*; *Jobes de Bev'laco*; *Will Eberaco,s Osmund de Sarr.* with scrolls and passages of scripture round them. In the small lights, at the top of the window, are various figures and representations, as of the trinity in a triangular form, as commonly express'd; of the virgin mother, &c. &c.

In the window on the other side of the south door, are written on the glass the names of the benefactors to the lights wherein they stand, viz. *Iob'es Rowtbale M'garet & Alic' ux.* in one compartment, *Iohanes Langele*¹ in another, and *Iohana Whyt* in a third; and round the head of the latter, in a scroll, *Sc'a Batildis ora pro nobis*;

¹ He was lord of the manor of Siddington Peter, of which he died seized 39 H. 6.

which faint is the principal figure above in this compartment. There is a large figure in each of the other lights, over the persons above-mentioned, but their names do not appear. In the other windows, on the same side of the church, are figures of canonized saints, with portions of scripture, in Latin, upon scrolls round them; but a description of every particular would be too minute and tedious.

Between the choir and the body of the church is a gallery or screen-work, upon which a handsome organ was erected in the year 1683, and several times since repaired and enlarged at a great expence.

The chapels were built at different times, and are the following :

1. *Jesus-chapel*, built of Irish oak, at the east end of the south aisle. It is 12 feet long, and 9 broad. Round the top of it are several coats of arms belonging to the families of benefactors to the church and poor; as, 1. Bathurst, 2. Master, 3. Monox, 4. Atkyns, 5. Cox, 6. Coxwell, 7. Smyth impaling Master, 8. *Or, a fess between three wolves heads erased sable*, for How of Guiting.

2. *St. John's*, on the south side of the choir, is 34 feet long, and 24 broad.

3. *St. Catherine's*, on the north side of the choir, is 34 feet long, and 13 broad. The roof is curiously arched with stone, and ornamented with

with arms, knots, and devices; among others,
 1. *Quarterly, France and England.* 2. *Three ostrich's feathers issuing out of a ducal coronet.* 3. *A rose ensigned with a coronet.* 4. The letters I. H. several times repeated, for John Hakebourne, as already mentioned. This chapel was roofed in abbat Hakebourne's time, principally at the expence of himself and bishop Ruthall. The effigy in stone of Richard Osmund, with a purse at his girdle, lay under an arch in the wall of this chapel, with his head upon a pillow, but now is injudiciously placed upright against the wall. He is supposed to have been the founder of it. The figure of St. Catherine, as large as life, with her wheel and several votaries at her feet, is rudely painted on the south wall, and 'till lately has been covered with white wash.

4. *St. Mary's*, formerly endowed with great revenues. It stands on the north side of St. Catherine's, and is 74 feet long, and 21 broad.

5. *Trinity-chapel*, on the north side of the north aisle. The glass windows of this chapel were very beautiful. In the east window were the figures of Peter king of Castile, Richard duke of York, Thomas duke of Surry, Richard earl of Salisbury, and of sir John Jeneville, who was buried here; but those figures are now defaced. In the wall at the east end are the arms of benefactors. 1. *Gules, a chevron between three mullets Or.* 2. *Argent,*

on a bend gules three martlets Or. 3. *Gules, two bars Or, in chief two stags heads caboshed of the second.* 4. *Argent, on a bend gules three cinquefoils Or.* 5. *Gules, a chevron between ten crosses pattee argent.* 6. Obliterated. 7. *Argent, a fess between three crosses pattee sable.* 8. *Sable, a cross argent.* 9. *Gules, three couples-cloves argent.* 10. *Checky Or and gules, a fess ermine, for Roe.* 11. *Argent, a chevron between three crescents Or.* 12. *Nebule Or and gules.* 13. *Argent, a chief indented sable.* 14. *Sable, six doves argent.* 15. *Argent, a bend Or, in chief a label.* 16. *Ermine, on a cross gules five martlets Or.* 17. *Checky Or and sable, a chief argent gutty gules.* 18. *Argent, fretty gules.* 19. *Gules, fretty argent, a canton of the second in the dexter chief.* — In a niche, at the east end of this chapel without, are the effigies in stone of the virgin Mary, and the infant Jesus in her arms.

The tower stands at the west end of the church. It is 134 feet high, well proportioned and beautiful, with pinnacles and battlements. On the dexter side of the west door are the arms of Cirencester abbey; on the other side, *Quarterly, France and England.* There are twelve bells in this tower, besides which there are only four peals of the same number in the kingdom, and they are in London. In the south-west angle of the tower, in a niche, is the figure of St. John, as large as life, to whom the church is dedicated; and in the north-west angle stands another figure.

There

There is a very curious representation in the north wall, at the top of the church, of a *Whitson-Ale*, with the lord and lady, in high relief, and the steward, purse-bearer, and all the mock officers which attend that kind of merry-making, almost peculiar to this country.

The south porch is a fine Gothic structure fronting the market-place, thirty-eight feet in front, and fifty high. It is ornamented with curious pinnacles and battlements of hollow work, and with a great variety of carved representations of dragons, beasts, and other figures, very neatly finished. In twelve niches in the front, formerly stood the twelve apostles; but the rigorous principles of the times, about the latter end of the reign of king Charles the First, would not permit them to remain. Over this porch is the town-hall, now used on parish meetings, and other large assemblies of the inhabitants; but formerly the general Sessions of the county hath been kept in it; on which account, I apprehend, the figure of Justice, standing over the door of the stairs leading to the hall, was first placed there. Alice Avening, aunt to bishop Ruthall by the mother's side, gave 100 marks towards the building of the porch, and his mother, and other parishioners, contributed towards the finishing of it. *Leland. v. 2. p. 23.*

There were several chantries and religious offices established in this church, viz.

1. The

1. The chantry of St. Mary.
2. The chantry of Jesus.
3. The chantry of St. Christopher, whereof Thomas Edmonds was the last chaplain, and had a pension, after the dissolution, of 4*l. Willis*. The lands belonging to these three chantries, were granted to sir Oliver Cromwell 5 Jac.
4. The chantry of the Holy Trinity, whereof William Painter was the last incumbent, and had a pension of 4*l. Willis*. The lands belonging to it were granted to — Skevington, in the reign of E. 6.
5. The service of the Holy Trinity, of which Thomas Marshall was the last incumbent, and had a pension of 5*l. Willis*.
6. The chantry of St. Catherine.
7. The office of St. Thomas the Martyr, founded by sir William Nottingham, baron of the exchequer, whereof Thoms Neal was the last chaplain.
8. The chantry of St. Anthony.
9. The chantry founded by John Jones.
10. The service of St. John.
11. Robert Richard's chantry, whereof William Wilson was the last incumbent, and had a pension of 4*l. Willis*.
12. Alice Avening's chantry, whereof Henry Jones was the last chaplain, and had a pension of 5*l. Willis*.

51. *Willis.* Her name is now in the window of St. Catherine's chapel.

13. The Fraternity of St. Catherine, and

14. The Fraternity of St. John Baptist.

Monuments and Inscriptions.

On a flat stone, engraved on brass, in the south aisle, are the effigies of a man and woman. On labels proceeding from their mouths,

Mercy God of my misdeede. — Lady help at my most neede.

On a brass plate under their feet,

Reyse gracious Ihu to endles lyfe at thy grete dome where all schall Apere Hughe Norys Groc' & Iohan hys wyf nowe dede in grave & beryed here yo' p'yers desyryng There Soules for chere the x day of Iuly the yere our lord god M^oCCCCXXIX. —
The above verses are engraved on the plate in a continued form, like prose.

In the passage before the chapels are the effigies of a man and woman engraved on a brass plate, and this inscription in old characters :

Orate pro aiabus Willi Nottingham et Cristine uxoris ejus qui quidem Willms obiit xxr^o die mensis Nouembris Anno d'ni Millmo CCCC^o XXVII^o. Et predict. Cristina obiit iiij^o die Iulij A^o. Dni M^oCCCC^o XXXIIIJ^o. q^or. aiab' p'piciet. deus Amen. — *Close by, on another stone (lately removed) was written,*

Munde vale tibi ve, fugiens me dum sequerer te,

Tu sequeris modo me, munde vale tibi ve.

Under the figure of an ecclesiastic, engraven on brass, it is thus written :

Orate pro anima dni Radulphi Parsons quondam capellani p'petue cantarie Ste trinitatis in hac ecclesia fundate, qui obiit xxix^o die augusti a^o dni m cccc lxxviii Cuj. aie p'piciet' deus Amen.

Near

Near the above, upon a flat stone,

Cum Ianâ Uxore, Radulphus Willet,
In dandis Confiliis Sapiens,
In expediendis negotiis Promptus,
In componendis Litibus Prudens,
Et in omnibus animi motibus
Æqualiter temperandis
Supra modum foelix,
Hic sepultus est.

Ob. { Hic } Aug. 23, 1692 } Annorum { 67.
 { Illa } Sept. 8, 1679 } { 49.

On a flat stone before the chancel, *Azure, a lion rampant argent, in chief three escalops of the second.*
And this memorial :

Near this place are interred the Remains of Mr. James Clutterbuck, Born Oct. 11, 1673. Dyed June 30, 1722, and Sufanna (Daughter of John and Sufanna Willett) his Wife. She was born Iune 11, 1671, Dyed Feb^{ry} 4, 1757.

Edward	} their Sons born	Mar. 1, 1689	} dyed	Apr. 17, 1728.
John		Oct. 8, 1697		Nov. 27, 1699.
John		Jan. 21, 1700		July 2, 1701.
Mary	their Daugh ^r .	Jan. 1, 1711		Jan. 11, 1711.

Against the wall, at the west end of the church,

Hic prope situm est
quod mortale fuit Thomæ Deacon,
Opidani utilis et amati,
Viri quidem scientis,
Nec non munere erga Deum et homines Fungentis,
Multum deploratus obiit

4^o. Aug^{ti}. Anno { Salutis 1661,
 { Ætatis 46.

Illi

(post annos circiter Viginti novem
purâ et sanctâ Viduitate elapsos)
Accefferunt exuviæ Margeriæ
eiusdem Thomæ Deacon
Vxoris præstantissimæ.
Hanc mortalitatem exuit

19^{no} Maij Anno { Salutis 1690,
 { Ætatis 74.

Upon

Upon a flat stone near the belfry, these arms,
*A cross cotoised between four lions rampant, in chief
 three roses.* And under, this memorial :

Underneath are deposited the Remains of THOMAS
 DEACON, of Elmstree, in the Parish of Tetbury, Gent.
 And likewise of ANNE his second Daughter. The Father
 departed this Life Sept. y^e 30th 1723, aged 78 Years. The
 Daughter y^e 19th of Dec. following, aged 36 Years.

They with the other Relations here interr'd all dying in a
 well grounded Hope of a joyful Resurrection.

Against the north wall, on a plain table of
 white marble :

This Marble is placed here in memory of Mr. JOHN GASTRELL,
 Who died the 18th day of June, 1767, in his 45th Year,

And is buried in the North West Corner
 Of the Church-Yard of *St. Mary le Strand* in the County of *Midd^x.*

He was a Native of this Town ;

And after a liberal Education in *Winchester* School,
 Served an Apprenticeship in the Parish of *St. Mary le Strand*,
 Where he was soon after admitted to a share of the Busyness,
 And by diligence, sweetness of manners, & an unblemisht conduct,

Obtained the good will of all ranks of People,

Acquired a decent Fortune,

And bequeathed it to his Relations & Friends

With a clear Head & benevolent Heart.

His Father RICHARD GASTRELL Gent.

Discharged the office of *Steward* of the Manor of *Cirencester*

For many Years,

With proper dignity, much judgment, & great candour ;
 Was eminent & justly esteemed as an *Attorney & Conveyancer*,

And remarkable for being more attentive

To the advantage of his numerous Clients,

Than to the rewards which his skill & success

Entitled him to expect or demand.

He departed this Life the 27th day of February, 1736,

Aged 57,

And lieth interred in the Parish Church of *Crudwell*

In the County of *Wilts.*

M

Against

Against the west wall, on a small monument, is a memorial for Nicholas Edwards, mercer, who died in 1711; for Elizabeth his wife, who died 1712; and for Elizabeth their daughter, who died 1726.

Against the south wall of the south aisle, on a small marble table, *Gules, a lion rampant regardant Or.* And under, it is thus written:

Non procul hinc repositum est quod fuit mortale Bridgidiaë, JACOBI SMALL Filiaë natu maximæ, Inter Laudandas Laude nonnulla dignæ: Matrimonio conjuncta fuit JACOBO PENRY, de Aberfenny in Agro Breconienfi Clerico, Cui peperit Annam Filiolam, in eodem Sepulchro contentam.

Obt.	{	Hæc	{	Decimo
				Die Sept. Anno Dom. 1735,
		Illa		Vicesimo quarto.

Upon a small brass plate, in the south aisle,

HERE LYETH bvried y^e Body of HODGKINSON PAINE, Clothier, who died y^e 3d of Feb. 1642.

The Poore's Supplie his life & calling grac't
 'till warre's made rent & PAINE from poore displac't.
 But what made poore vnfortunate PAINE blest,
 by warre they lost their PAINE, yet found noe rest,
 Hee looseing quiet by Warre yet gained ease,
 by it PAINE's life began, and paine did cease;
 And from y^e troubles here him God did sever,
 by death to life, by Warre* to peace for ever.

* He was killed at the taking of Cirencester in the Civil War.

And under, on a plate,

Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Paine deceased the 8th day of Ianuary An. Do. 1668.

One was our thought One life wee fought
 One rest wee both jntended
 Our bodies haue To sleepe one graue
 Our soules to God ascended.

In

In Jesus chapel is a handsome marble monument, with three busts at top. 1. of Mr. William Georges, with his arms, *Argent, a fess gules between three faulcons with their wings display'd azure, beak'd and bell'd Or.*—2. *Gules, three fleurs de lis Or, on a chief argent a lion of the first.*—3. *Party per fess Or and argent, a lion rampant gules,* for Powell. On the table this inscription :

To the Lasting Remembrance
of
WILLIAM GEORGES, Esq;
This Monument was erected
by

REBECCA his *Relict*.
Who being afterwards married to
THOMAS POWELL, Esq;
Ordered that his Memory also should be
Herein transmitted to Posterity.
WILLIAM GEORGES, Esq;
Was underneath interred, Iune the 18th 1707,
In the 81st Year of his Age.

By his Body was deposited That of
THOMAS POWELL, Esq; Sept. the 13th 1718,
In the 67th Year of his Age.

To their Remains were added Those of
REBECCA,

Nov. y^e 8th 1722, in y^e 80th Year of her Age :
Whose Bequest, out of y^e Estate devised to her by W. G. did,
at Lady-Day, 1728, amount to 2400*l.* and 200*l.* a year, for
Erecting & Endowing a Charity-School, or Schools, in this
Town. The other Pious and Charitable Gifts of R. P. and
also of W. G. & T. P. are recorded in y^e Catalogue of
Benefactions to this Parish.

In St. John's Chapel is an elegant raised monument of black and white marble. Over an arch are, *Parted per pale baron and femme, 1. Argent, on a chevron sable between three oak leaves*

proper as many besants; on a chief gules a sea mew between two anchors erected of the first, for Monox.
 2. *Argent, on a bend sable three pears Or, in the chief point a trefoil, for Perry.* Under the arch are the figures of a man and woman kneeling, with their respective arms over their heads, as above, and between them a table, with the following inscription in gold capital letters :

MEMORIÆ SACRVM GEORGIJ MONOX ARMIG. CIREN-
 CESTRIÆ NATI, QVI (POST PLVRIMOS ANNOS IN MERCAN-
 DIZIS LABORIOSE & PRVDENTER PERIMPLEVERAT) AD
 GRADVM & DIGNITATEM OFFICIJ VICECOMITIS LONDINENSIS
 VNANIMI OPTIMATVM CONSENSV, FVIT VOCATVS. MAGNAS
 DENARIORVM SVMMAS SEPARALIB' LOCIS IN PIOS VSVS
 LEGAVIT; & VT SINGVLAREM AMOREM QVO NATALE SOLVM
 VIVVS AMAVIT FVTVRIS SÆCVLIS MANIFESTARET, CENTVM
 LIBRAS IN PECVNIIS NVMERATIS, & TENEMENTA ANNI
 VALORIS VIGINTI LIBRARVM PRO MELIORI HVIVS VILLÆ
 PAVPERVM SVSTENTACIONE, & LECTVRA HAC ECCLESIA
 SINGVLIS MENSIBVS PRÆDICANDA IN PERPETVVM ASSIG-
 NAVIT.

Maria vxor mœstissima (ex qua solas duas filias
 superstites suscepit) Viro Charissimo, pietatis, amoris, et obser-
 uantiæ ergò posuit.

OBIIT 26^o DIE IUNI ANNO
 SALVTIS 1638, ÆTATIS SVÆ (68.)

*Dies mortis æternæ vitæ
 natalis est.*

Under are the figures of the two daughters, one
 of them with the arms as on the dexter side above-
 mentioned ; the other, *Baron and femme*, 1. *Vert,*
a chevron undy between three griphons rampant Or.
 2. *Monox, as above.*

In the chancel, before the steps which lead to
 the altar, is a memorial [J. H. 1753. C. H. 1733.]
 for Joseph Harrison, M. A. the late vicar of this
 church, and Catherine his wife ; the brevity of
 which,

which, without an explanation, would soon defeat the intention of it. Close by it, on another table of white marble, is written,

ST. THOMAS HARRISON, Kn^t.

Chamberlain of the City of London,
youngest Son of Joseph Harrison Clerk,
late Minister of this Parish,

died the 2d of January 1765, aged 64.

Dame DOROTHEA HARRISON, Relict of
Sir Thomas Harrison, died Jan^y. 8th 1773, aged 71.

On a flat stone,

M. S.

Rogeri Burgoyne

M. D.

Qui post

Prudentem, piam, prosperam

Facultatis Medicæ

(Annos circiter Viginti)

Administrationem,

tandem,

Debilitato Corpore,

Subita sed non improvisa morte

Occubuit,

Decembris 21^{mo},

1674,

Ætatis suæ 46.

At top, *Parted per pale baron and femme*, 1. *A chevron between three talbots, on a chief embattled three martlets.* 2. *Six roundlets, 3, 2, 1, on a chief a lion passant.*

On the table of a neat monument against the south wall,

H. S. E.

Juxta carissimum Fratrem,

Vix ipse fratri superstes,

Samuel Selfe, Johann. et Eliz.

Filius natu maximus.

Cui nihil unquam amicis desideratum

Preter Etatem diuturniorem.

Dolemus ut Homines,

Ut

M. S.

Egregii Juvenis

RADULPH. WILLET SELFE,

Ioannis et Elizabethæ Selfe Fil. secund.

Vultu honesto,

Pectore generoso,

Moribus placidissimis;

Carus Parentibus,

Carus

Ut Christiani lætamur.
 Optimis quippe conditionibus natus,
 Annum agens vicesimum,
 Cœlo maturus,
 Vitam æterna caducam
 Feliter permutavit.
 D. Feb. 5. A. S. 1759.

Carus Præceptoribus,
 Virtute quam annis maturior.
 Diem obiit supremum
 XI Kal. Feb.
 MDCCLVIII.
 Vale Anima dulcissima!

Near this Place lies
 The Body of John Selfe, Clothier,
 Who was a most kind and affectionate Husband,
 An indulgent and good Father,
 A good Master and a faithful Friend.
 He departed this Life on the 28th of Jan.
 In the Year of our Lord 1763,
 And in the 56th Year of his Age.
 E. S. died July y^e 29th, 1766, aged 49 Years.

At bottom, *Ermine, three chevrons gules; on a scutcheon of pretence, barry of twelve pieces sable and argent, on a chief of the second three lioncels rampant of the first, for Willet.*

Against the same wall is a neat marble monument, with this inscription :

Near this place resteth the Body of
 M^{rs}. ELIZABETH CRIPPS, Wife of M^r. JOHN CRIPPS Jun^r.
 who departed this Life Feb^y. 3^d 1758, Aged 41 Years.
 Also of Edward their Son who died Feb. 9, 1758,
 Aged 9 Years.
 And also John & Henry their Sons, both Born Decem^r. 3^d,
 And both died the 10th of y^e same Month, in the Year 1743.
 To these are added
 the Remains of the above named M^r. JOHN CRIPPS,
 who died the 7th day of May, 1771, aged 49 Years.

Against the north wall, a neat, small marble monument, with this inscription :

In Memory of
 EDWARD WILBRAHAM, Woolstapler,
 who departed this Life the 10th of Octo^r. 1771,
 aged 60 Years.
 Also of MARY his first Wife,
 who died the 14th of April, 1753, Aged 57.

A stone,

OF CIRENCESTER. 89

A stone, with the following inscriptions, lay where Mr. Harrison's is placed : viz.

H. S.
 Thomas Carles, Art. M^r.
 De Cirencester Pastor } Digniss.
 De Barnsley Rector }
 Vtriusq; Ornamentum,
 Mortuus Triste Desiderium.
 Vir
 Integritate vitæ,
 Suavitate morum,
 Ingenii Dotibus,
 Concionandi venustate
 Adeo insignis,
 Vt non sine ingenti
 Totius Diocæseos luctu
 Decefferit,
 Oct. 7, Ann. Æt^s. 50,
 Dom. 1675.

H. R. J. P.
 Depositu Subditi fidelis Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ,
 Filij morigeri et Artis Chirurgiæ peritissimi,
 Gulielmi Freame, Generosi,
 Qui obiit Oct. 24^o Ann. Dom. 1678, Ætat. 58.
 Siste Viator,
 Mortuus Loquor,
 Audi;
 Morte meâ cecidi,
 Christi virtute Resurgam :
 Ergo et tu.

In St. Catherine's chapel, under two figures engraved on brass, is this inscription in capitals :

MR. IOHN GUNTER AND ALICE HIS WIFE, BEING FULL AS OF YEARES SO OF BOVNTY AND CHARITY, ARE GATHERED TO THEIR FATHERS IN PEACE. SHEE WAS HERE BVRYED 18^o MARTIJ A^o. DNI 1626 AGED 86 YEARES. HEE WAS BVRYED AT KYNTBURY IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS WITH THE LIKE MONVMENT 2^{do} IANUARIJ A^o. DNI 1624 AGED 89 YEARES. IO^o. PLATT AR. EORUND^m. GENER ET EXEC^r. HOC POSVIT.

A flat

A flat stone, *On a bend ermine three leopards heads caboshed*, (the colours not expressed) and underneath this inscription :

Hic requiescit
Ærumnarum portu et meta Salutis
quicquid terrestre fuit
Thomæ Kemble, Gen.
Cujus anima
Ad Superos evolavit
14 Cal. Aug.
Anno { Ætat. Sux 71,
 { Æræ Christianæ 1710.

Anne Kemble, Daughter of Anthony Kemble, was buried the
14th day of Dec. 1733.

William Kemble, Gent. obiit June 22^d. 1745.

In the same chapel were the two following
memorials :

Sub hoc tumulo requiescunt corpora Iohannis Avening et
Alicie uxoris ejus qui obierunt xiiii die Aprilis anno Dni 1501.
—— *Alice Avening founded a chantry in this church.*

Pray for the souls of Iohn George, esq; and Alice his wife,
who were buried here, which Iohn decessid the 8th day of
October 1556. And the said Alice decessid the 3d day of May
1557, and had four sons and eight daughters. — *He was lord
of the manor of Baunton.*

At the entrance of St. Mary's chapel, against
the wall, on a brass plate, is the effigy of an old
man in a gown, with a taylor's shears over his
head, and a dog at his feet. At bottom,

In Lent by will a sermon hee deuised
And yerely precher with a noble prised
Seuen nobles hee did geue y^e poore for to defend
And 80^l. to xvi men did lend
In Cicester Burford Abington & Tetburie
Euer to be to them a stocke Yerrly.

Phillip Marner who died in the yeare 1587.

Under

Under a free-stone arch, in St. Mary's chapel, are the effigies of a man in the habit of a lawyer, and of a woman in the genteel dress of her time, lying along, with their hands in a praying posture. On a table this memorial :

Here *lyeth* the bodies of Humfry Bridges and Elizabeth his wife. He dyed the 17 of April 1598. Shee dyed the 6 of Iuly 1620. They had both sonnes and daught^s. He gaue 40s. yearly for ever to the poore of this towne. Shee gave 6 habitations for 6 poore widdowes with 6s. weekly for ever.

Over the figure of a young man kneeling at the head,

Humfrid^s. Fil. sen. de Medio Templo obiit 2^o Decemb. 1610.

Over a like figure kneeling at the feet,

Anthon. Fil. jun. de Medio Templo obiit 2^o Aug. 1617.

At bottom are the figures in minature of one son and eight daughters, with books in their hands. The whole monument is in good preservation, with iron pallisadoes round it.

Against the south wall is an elegant white marble monument for sir William Master. He is represented in a cumbent posture, leaning on his left elbow, and over him, on a table, this inscription:

Quos Deus conjunxit separat tantum
non repudiat Mors.

MEMORIÆ SACRUM

Fidissimi serui dei et Regis subditi

Patriæque amantissimi suæ,

GULIELMI MASTER apud Corinios

Equitis Aurati;

Qui Martyrem Regem mœrens Martyr

Semimortuus vixit diu;

Citius dominum secutus, ni morbo paralytico

Restitisset firma fides

M

Restituendi

THE HITSORY

Restituendi Regis Insignissimi,
 Caroli Secundi;
 Vtcunq; apud Vigorniam, fusi.
 Voti tandem, ac vaticinij compos factus,
 Tantiq; pignoris, Justorum resurrectionis.
 Vitam mortalem exiit; immortalī deo
 Cœlitum choro gratias acturus,

Anno Dom: 1661 (Ætatis 61) Mens: Mart: die 3.

He married Alice one of y^e daught^{rs}. of St. Edw: Eftcowrt of Newnton in y^e county of Wiltes K^t. by whome he had issue 6 Sonns and 6 daught: A Lady highly eminent both for her partes and pietie who haveing by y^e blessing of God passed through y^e troubles of an intestine warr, & liued to see her Children bred up, resigned her Soule to God, whose body lyes here interred waiting for y^e resurrection of y^e Iust. Sept. 5: 1660.

Under his figure are four other tables, with inscriptions. Upon the first is written,

M. S.
 Elizabethæ Uxoris Thomæ Master,
 Thomæ Filii,
 Quæ

(Variolarum morbo contracto)
 Proximè a puerperio obiens,
 Unâ cum infantulo
 Hic jacet Sepulta:
 Ob nativam comitatem,
 Ingenij Elegantiam,
 Singularem modestiam,
 Omnesq; alias, quæ feminâ, uxorē,
 Aut Matrem exornant virtutes
 Maxime deſſenda: præſertî Conjugi,
 Cui, in Solatium tanti doloris,
 Et ad Supplendas amicitiaë vices
 (a fato Solum diſſolvendæ)
 Infantes duos Tho: et Elizab.
 Chariffima Amoris Pignora
 Legavit A. D. 1691, Æt. 26.

Upon the second,

Hic ſubtus Deposited eſt
 Quicquid mortale fuit
 ELIZ. MASTER, THO. & ELIZ. filiaë,
 Immortalem ſi requiras partem,

Ad patriam Cœlestem redijt,
 Itineris terreni maculis
 Quam minimùm inquinata :
 In qua Ingenij Elegantia, Gestus
 Suavis, Compositus, Decorus,
 Omnes deniq; enitũere virtutes,
 Quibus indoles optima
 Ad pietatem, prudentiam,
 Et Mores pudicos Formata,
 Instrui et Ornari possit,
 Adeo ut licet Ætas sit imperfecta,
 Vita tamen illi perfecta.
 Obijt Aug. 15 A° Dom. 1705 Æ. 16.

Upon the third,

M. S.

ELIZ. MASTER, Tho: Master Arm. viduæ,
 Et THO: DYKE de Horeham
 In Agro Suffexiæ Arm. Filiæ,

Quæ se

Morum elegantia, Integritatis puræ,
 Temperantiæ, & Modestiæ severæ,
 Candoris eximij, & Pietatis sinceræ,
 Omnibus imitandũ Exemplum præbuit.

His Animi dotibus accessit

Valetudo ad Extremam

Senectutem Integra :

Quæ si tibi contingant Lector,

Summam hujus Vitæ

Fælicitatem Consequeris,

Et Futuræ Gloriam expectes.

Obijt Ian: 28: A°: Dom: 1703-4. Æ. 83.

Upon the fourth,

P. H. M.

Filius Unicus

In memoriam Patris Optimi,

THOMÆ MASTER Armigeri,

In quo,

Morū gravitas, humanitate condita,

Animus piè liberalis,

Indoles verè generosa,

Quicquid demũ aut Virũ probũ,

Aut ornatũ decebat,

M 2

Summe

Summè emicuit.
 Virtutes has imitare Lector,
 Ut fias Deo et hominibus charus.
 Obijt A. D. 1680, Æt. 56.

In Trinity chapel are several very antient flat stones of grey marble, with inscriptions on brass. On one of them is a knight, with a lady on each side of him, and this memorial :

Hic sepeliuntur Willms Prelatte Armiger specialissim' benefactor huj' Capelle Agnes nup' uxor Iohannis Martyn et Iohana filia et heres Ricardi de Cobyndon Relicta Iohannis Twynyho de Cayforde in Comitatu Soms. Armigeri uxores ip'ius Willi qui quidē Willms Prelatte obiit in vigilia Ascencionis d'nice xxvi^o die maij Anno d'ni M^o CCCC^o lxij^o. quor' p'piciet de' ā.

On another stone, inlaid with brass (whereon are the effigies of a man and woman, and fourteen children) was this inscription, part of which is torn off :

Hic jacet Robertus Pagge cum Margareta sibi sponfa prole secunda
 Vicinis gratus fuerat mercator amatus
 Pacificus plenis manibus subventor egenis
 Ecclesiisq; viis ornator et hiis reparator
 Mill C quater quater et anno sed Aprilis
 Octava luce mortem pertransiit ipse
 Celi solamen De' illi conferat Amen.

On a label, issuing out of the woman's mouth, is

That to the Trinite for us pray synge or rede.

Another stone. On brass are engraven the figures of a man, his two wives, and eight children, with this inscription :

Orate pro āiabus Iohannis, Benett et Agnetis
 uxor' suarum qui quidem Iohannes obiit decimo nono die mensis
 Iulii Anno Domini Millimo CCCC^o nonagesimo septimo quor'
 animabus

Over his first wife's head is written,

Spiritus sci de' miserere nobis.

Over

Over his head,

Sācta Trinitas unus Deus miserere nobis.

Over his other wife's head (now torn off) was written,

Fili redemptor mundi miserere nobis.

On the brass plate of another stone are representations of a man and his four wives, two on each side, and on the brass, round the edge of the stone, in old characters,

Hic jacent Reginaldus Spycer quondam m'cator isti' ville qui obiit ix^o die Iulij Anno dni Mill'mo CCCC^o xlij^o et Margareta Iuliana Margareta ac Iohna uxores ej' quor' aiab' p'picietur d's Amen.

On another brass plate is the effigy of a man in armour, with spurs on, and a sword girt to his side, in the pomel of which are these arms, *A pile, over all a chevron.* Round the stone, on brass, it was written, but now imperfect,

Hic jacet Richardus Dixton Armiger qui obiit die sancti Laurencii martyris Anno dni M CCCC xxxviii^o cujus anime propicietur de' Amen.

On a plain marble table against the north wall,

In remembrance

of Mr. William Turner, late of this place:
and of Catharine, (for more than fifty-six years)
his entirely beloved wife.

He was the youngest son of the reverend John Turner of Somerford Keynes in the county of Wilts:
and died the 21st of August 1769, aged seventy-six years.
She was the second daughter of the reverend Joseph Harrison,
more than sixty-three years minister of this parish:
and died four months after her husband,
and of the same age.

They were a very humane and exemplary pair:
acknowledged THE MOST HIGH in every dispensation:
and kept through life the serious thought of death.

In the south porch, against the wall, is the following modest memorial:

Under

Under your Feet lyeth the Body of William Cletherow, Gent.
an humble Penitent, who thoughte himfelfe unworthy of the
loweft Place in the Houfe of God. He departed this Life the
8th day of November 1680.

In the church-yard, on a handsome raifed tomb,

Huic Tumulo mandati funt Cineres

Ioannis Adye Generofi

Filii Edvardi & Eſteræ Adye

Quorum exuviæ juxta requieſcunt,
innocui, probi, bonis Literis imbuti,
Turbamq; fugientis.

Obiit 26° Martii A. D. 1745 Ætatis ſuæ 68.

Hic etiam ſepulta eſt Maria

Ioannis Adye uxor chariſſima

Et Edvardi Foyle de Somerford Keyns in Agro Wiltonienſi Arm.

Filia valde deploranda:

De vitâ exceſſit 24° Februarii A. D. 1724 Ætatis ſuæ 43.

Idem quoque Tumulus continet

Quicquid mortale fuit Mariæ Ainge [Generofi

Uxoris Ricardi Ainge de Lechlade in Comitatu Glouceſtriienſi

Et Ioannis Adye ſororis non indignæ

Obiit 30° Maii A. D. 1744 Ætatis ſuæ 71.

On the north ſide of the tomb,

Confanguineorum Affiniumq; juxta Exuvias
voluerunt et ſuas jacere

Richmundus Day

de Civitate Briſtoliienſi Mercator eximius

Vir Juſtitia pertinox, fiduſq; Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ Diſcipulus

Et Maria Conjux ejus dilectiſſima

Unicaq; Ricardi & Mariæ Ainge

et nequaquam impar Filia.

Hos Animo, Pietate, Morumq; Suavitate pares

Annis pluſquam quadraginta

domeſticas Virtutes exercendo

et Amore mutuo peractis

Mors eodem fere Tempore corripuit:

Uxor a vitâ deceſſit 29° Junii A. D. 1758 Ætatis ſuæ 63.

Maritus

19° Auguſti A. D. 1758 Ætatis ſuæ 70.

Hunc Tumulum

Parentibus indulgentiſſimis Confanguineisq; ſacrum

Filius, Nepos, juſſit extrui

1759.

The

The arms of Adye are, *Azure, a fess dancetty between three cherubims display'd Or.* — Ange. *Azure, a chevron ermine between three crosses formy argent.* — Day. *Ermine, on a chief indented azure two eaglets display'd Or.*

Benefactions.

Doctor William Clarke, late dean of Winchester, having devised certain lands and tithes in the parish of Tillingham, in the county of Essex, in trust among other things, to augment ten small ecclesiastical benefices with 30*l.* *per ann.* each for ever; and Dr. Henry Compton, bishop of London, and the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, having the nomination of six of those benefices, declared they would assign this charity to such market-towns as would settle an equal revenue on their minister. And the inhabitants of the town of Cirencester, with the assistance of others, having raised the sum of 619*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* by free contribution, and with 600*l.* of the said money purchased an annuity for their minister of 30*l.* a year, charged on the tithing of Oakley, in this parish; the said trustees then appointed Cirencester to be one of those benefices so to be augmented, by an instrument dated Jan. 17, 1698. But by a deficiency in the profits of the trust estate, from inundations and other accidents, the annual payments to the respective ministers, from the first commencement in 1699, have often fallen under, tho' sometimes exceeded 15*l.* a year. The surplus of the money (19*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*) was given to the minister towards defraying his expences in settling the augmentation. The principal contributors to this laudable benefaction were, sir Robert Atkyns jun. knight, who gave 100*l.* Thomas Master, esq; 100*l.* Mrs. Bridget Smith, a daughter of sir William Master, knight, 100*l.* Mrs. Winifred Master, 50*l.* Mrs. Anne Williams, 43*l.* Sir Benjamin Bathurst, knight, 20*l.* Sir Jonathan Raymond, knight, 20*l.* Sir Richard Onslow, baronet, 10*l.* Sir Richard Howe, baronet, 10*l.* John Willet, clothier, 20*l.* Bernard Ballinger, 20*l.* John Coxe, clerk, rector of North Cerney, 10*l.* Ralph Willet, clerk, rector of Stratton, 10*l.* Robert Brereton, gent. 10*l.* Other contributions were from 5*l.* to 10*s.* each.

'Till about this time there was no vicarage-house. The inhabitants first purchased a lease of the present house; afterwards William George, esq; gave the quit-rent of it, and in the year 1708, Mrs. Rebecca George, his widow, gave the fee of it for ever.

For Sermons, Prayers, and Catechizing.

1587, Philip Marner gave 6s. 8d. for ever, for a sermon on the first Friday in clear Lent.

1607, Sir Giles Fettiplace gave an annuity of 20s. out of lands in Eastington; half for a sermon on the 5th of November, and half for ringing on the same day, and for mending the ropes.

John Coxwell, esq; gave 20s. a year for two sermons in Christmas tide and Lent.

1618, Jeffry Bath, bailiff of the town, gave 6s. 8d. for a sermon on Ascension-day.

1637, Sir Thomas Roe, of Cranford in Middlesex, gave 2l. for a sermon or prayers on the 13th of September, for ever.

1639, George Monox, esq; gave 8l. *per ann.* for a sermon on the first Wednesday in every month.

1681, Mrs. Mapson, a native of the town, gave 10s. for a sermon on St. Andrew's day.

1695, John Master, M. D. gave 200l. one half of the income of which to the minister for ever, for reading morning prayers; the other half to poor house-keepers not receiving alms.

Mrs. Rebecca Powell gave 10l. a year to the minister, for catechizing the children, and for expounding the catechism; and 2l. a year to provide candles necessary for that service.

Mrs. Hannah Ashwell gave 10l. the interest whereof for a sermon on the 30th of January for ever; but the principal money is now lost. She also gave 10l. more, the interest of which to be divided between the minister and parish clerk, for a psalm, with *Gloria Patri*, to be sung every Monday at morning prayers.

Nicholas Edwards gave to the minister the interest of 5l. for ever.

To the Church, &c. and for Educating and Apprenticing poor Children.

The large, handsome Gallery, on the north side of the church, was built at the expence of the Right Honourable the Earl of Bathurst. That at the entrance of St. Catherine's chapel was erected by sir Anthony Hungerford.

The Organ was purchased with the contributions of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood.

The two large Silver Flaggons, used at the communion, were given by Edward Dixon, esq; in the year 1434; William George, esq; and his wife, gave the two Plates for collecting the offerings; Mr. John Adye gave the gilt Strainer for the chalice; and Mrs. Bridget Smith, and others (whose names are either forgotten

gotten, or who chose to conceal them) furnished the remainder of the noble service of plate with which this church is accommodated.

The best bible and common prayer book were given by Thomas Powell, esq; and his wife; and the marble font was presented by the female inhabitants of the town.

For the ornamenting and repairing of the church, there is a revenue of 67*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* a year, arising chiefly from houses lying within the town, and a close in the tithing of Chesterton, given by John Jones, and other benefactors, whose names have not been transmitted down to us; about 22*l.* of which is laid out in repairs, and the remainder expended in salaries, except 4*l.* paid to the minister, and 8*l.* to the master of the free Grammar School, as directed by a decree in chancery 1 Jac. 1.

The Grammar School was built and founded by bishop Ruthall. The master has a good house kept in repair for him, and besides the 8*l.* a year before-mentioned, queen Mary endowed the school with 20*l.* a year out of the exchequer, which bounty was afterwards confirmed by queen Elizabeth.

The Blue School, for cloathing and educating twenty boys and twenty girls, with provision for teaching younger children in quarterly schools, out of it, was set up in 1714, by the general beneficence of the inhabitants and their friends. But Thomas Powell, esq; and Rebecca his wife, were the principal benefactors. In the year 1718 he endowed it with 15*l.* a year, part of an annuity for 99 years, paid out of the exchequer; and a moiety of the profits of Maskelyne's Ham in Cricklade. And the court of chancery, in the year 1737, appropriated 20*l.* a year, out of the estates bequeathed to Mrs. Powell for erecting and endowing a charity school or schools in this parish, for the support of this school; and in 1744, appointed the produce of 562*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to be paid yearly for the benefit of this school, as a provisional supply, after the expiration of the annuity out of the exchequer.

The Yellow School was erected and endowed by virtue of the will of Mrs. Rebecca Powell, who died in the year 1722, and left an estate for that purpose. A school-house was purchased and fitted up at the expence of near 1200*l.* but some difficulties arising about carrying the will into execution, the court of chancery, upon application to it, decreed that 212*l.* 8*s.* *per annum* be apply'd to the cloathing, maintaining, teaching to write and cast accounts, and bringing up twenty boys in the art of stocking-frame knitting. Twenty girls are also cloathed every year, and are taught to read, and to spin worsted.

Sir Thomas Roe gave a rent-charge of 25*l.* a year out of lands at Mouswell in this county, 40*s.* of which for a sermon, as

already mentioned, the rest to put out poor children of this parish apprentices, on the 13th of September annually; and once in three or four years, a boy out of the parish of Rendcombe, if presented.

Mr. Thomas Perry gave 100*l.* and his son Mr. Timothy Perry gave 12*l.* which sums were laid out in the purchase of a freehold estate in the parish of Upton St. Leonard in this county.

Richard George, esq; gave a rent-charge of 3*l.* a year, out of a house in Gloucester-street; William Forder, late of Amney Crucis, gave 20*l.* Thomas Powell, esq; gave 40*l.* James Clutterbuck, late citizen of Exeter, gave 100*l.* James Shewell, silkman, gave 10*l.* and Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards, in 1726, gave 100*l.* the annual produce of all which to be apply'd to the putting out poor children apprentices.

Hospitals and Almshouses.

King Henry the First founded St. John's Hospital, for three poor men and three poor women, who receive 1*s.* 8*d.* each weekly.

St. Lawrence's Hospital was founded by Edith, lady of Wiggold, in this parish, for a master, with a salary of about 40*s.* a year, and two poor women, who have 12*d.* a piece weekly.

St. Thomas's Hospital was erected by sir William Nottingham, who lived in the reign of king Henry the Fourth, and endowed it with a rent-charge of 6*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* *per annum*, out of an estate in the parish of Thornbury, which is divided between four poor weavers.

In the year 1620, Mrs. Elizabeth Bridges gave an Almshouse in Dollar-street for six poor widows, and 1*s.* a piece weekly for ever.

William George, esq; and Rebecca his wife, in the year 1702, gave six tenements and gardens in Leause-lane, for six poor widows; and assigned two other tenements in Cricklade-street, one charged with 6*l.* a year to buy garments for the widows, and what remains of the produce of them to keep the houses in repair.

Thomas Powell, esq; gave a moiety of the rent of Maskelyne's Ham to the same widows; and Rebecca his widow gave them 20*s.* a year each, to buy them firing.

John Morfe gave two dwellings in Gloucester-street for two poor widows.

To be given or lent in Money to the Poor.

In the year 1587, Philip Marner gave 20*l.* and in 1613, Henry Hill gave 30*l.* to be lent to tradesmen without interest.

The

The same Philip Marner gave a rent-charge of 3*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* on a house in Abbat-street; Alice Avening, in 1498, gave a house in Dollar-street, of 40*s.* a year; John Weobley, the same year, gave a house, since exchanged for an annuity of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* charged on the Greyhound inn; William Hooper, in 1605, gave a house in Little Silver-street, of 2*l.* 4*s.* rent; Jeffry Bathe, in 1618, gave, out of a house in Cricklade-street, 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* John Chandler, in 1632, gave a house in Cicely-street of 2*l.* a year; Mr. Humphry Bridges gave a house in Cricklade-street, of 2*l.* a year; George Monox, esq; in 1639, gave five houses in this town, now let at 23*l.* 10*s.* the produce of which (except 8*l.* a year for a monthly sermon, and 6*s.* 8*d.* to be spent) to be given in money to the poor. John Pathe, butcher, in 1641, gave a rent-charge of 4*l.* on a house in Dollar-street, half to decayed butchers and half to the other poor. Rowland Freeman, in 1658, gave a rent-charge of 40*s.* on a house and land now incorporated with the earl of Bathurst's park. These rents were all given to the use of the poor.

The following sums were also given that the annual interest of them may be apply'd to the same use.

In 1625, Samuel Coxwell, gent. gave 50*l.* 1639, George Monox, esq; gave 100*l.* 1645, Sir Henry Pratt, of London, baronet, gave 100*l.* William Blomer, of Hatherop, gent. gave 40*l.* Mrs. Chambers gave 50*l.* Others, in small contributions, gave 53*l.* Which sums were all laid out in the purchase of land in South Cerney, except 20*l.* part of Mr. Blomer's gift, with 10*l.* of which a house in Gloucester-street was purchased for the poor.

Thomas Damsel gave 100*l.* In 1620, a man who had a lottery here 40*l.* Mr. Thomas Shermore, of London, 20*l.* Mr. John Stone 20*l.* Robert George, esq; 10*l.* The heirs of Robert Strange, esq; 10*l.* Mr. Edward Pratt, jun. 10*l.* 1606, Thomas Smith 20*l.* 1615, John May, of Amney St. Mary, 10*l.* Robert Stech, butcher, 10*l.* Edward Church 20*l.* 1669, Lady Atkynson, of Stowel, 10*l.* 1679, John Oates, clothier, 10*l.* 1680, William Kerby, of London, salter, 10*l.* John Coxwell, esq; 100*l.* The reverend Mr. William Master 50*l.* 1706, Mrs. Winifred Master 60*l.* Other benefactions, in smaller sums, amounted to 22*l.* 10*s.* Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards gave 30*l.* and four tenements in Castle-street, (which were sold for 60*l.* about the year 1729) the interest to be distributed yearly among four poor families. But these sums, with 100*l.* before mentioned to have been given by her for apprenticing children, were laid out in the purchase of the church-yard.

The following charities are to provide cloathing for the poor.

In 1642, fir Anthony Hungerford gave West-Mead in Amney Crucis. Thomas Perry, senior, in 1673, gave 20*l*. Edward King, in 1692, gave a rent-charge of 2*l*. 9*s*. on two houses in Coxwell-street. Anne Peters gave 20*l*. Nicholas Edwards 40*l*. Sarah Humphris 10*l*. and Frances Peek 5*l*.

The interest of the following donations is to be annually given to the poor in bread.

Mrs. Mary Chambers, daughter of Mr. Monox, gave 50*l*. Mr. Fettiplace 20*l*. Nicholas Edwards 10*l*. Elizabeth, his widow, 5*l*. and Isaac Tibbet, her father, 20*l*.

The large Engine for extinguishing fire was given by fir Benjamin Bathurst. That of a more modern construction, built by Newsham, was presented to the town by the two representatives, the Honourable Mr. Henry Bathurst, (now Lord Apsey, and Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain) and Thomas Master, esq. The small one was purchased by the inhabitants of the town.

Dyer-ward.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	87	7	0
		Poll-tax — — 1694, —	62	12	0
		Land-tax — — 1694, —	169	14	0
		The same, at 3 <i>s</i> . 1770, —	132	6	10 <i>b</i> .

Cricklade-ward.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	35	9	8
		Poll-tax — — 1694, —	23	6	0
		Land-tax — — 1694, —	84	6	0
		The same, at 3 <i>s</i> . 1770, —	62	16	1

Castle-ward.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	20	4	0
		Poll-tax — — 1694, —	15	17	0
		Land-tax — — 1694, —	63	19	0
		The same, at 3 <i>s</i> . 1770, —	45	14	0

Gosditch-

Gosditch-Ward.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	57	10	8
		Poll-tax — 1694, —	36	15	0
		Land-tax — 1694, —	103	3	0
		The same, at 3s. 1770, —	79	4	0

Dollar-Ward.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	38	9	0
		Poll-tax — 1694, —	39	1	0
		Land-tax — 1694, —	97	0	0
		The same at 3s. 1770, —	65	18	0

St. Lawrence-Ward.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	14	19	8
		Poll-tax — 1694, —	12	17	0
		Land-tax — 1694, —	40	12	0
		The same, at 3s. 1770, —	27	0	0

Instrip-Ward.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	5	1	4
		Poll-tax — 1694, —	4	19	0
		Land-tax — 1694, —	16	12	0
		The same, at 3s. 1770, —	10	2	10ob.

Spittlegate.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	44	18	8
		Poll-tax — 1694, —	8	2	0
		Land-tax — 1694, —	72	18	0
		The same, at 3s. 1770, —	49	10	6

Wiggold.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	15	0	0
		Poll-tax — 1694, —	0	16	0
		Land-tax — 1694, —	20	0	0
		The same, at 3s. 1770, —	15	0	0

Cheflerton.

Chesterton.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	21	11	4
	{	Poll-tax ——— 1694, —	0	0	0
	{	Land-tax ——— 1694, —	47	12	0
	{	The same, at 3s. 1770, —	35	14	0

Barton.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	45	5	4
	{	Poll-tax ——— 1694, —	0	6	8
	{	Land-tax ——— 1694, —	62	15	6
	{	The same, at 3s. 1770, —	45	10	6

Oakley.

Taxes.	{	The Royal Aid in 1692, £.	52	12	0
	{	Poll-tax ——— 1694, —	0	16	0
	{	Land-tax ——— 1694, —	28	0	0
	{	The same, at 3s. 1770, —	21	0	0

I come now to give the state of population. According to sir Robert Atkyns, when he compiled his account of this parish, there were near 800 houses, and about 4000 inhabitants, whereof above 100 were freeholders; yearly births 103, burials 87. But these numbers are too high; for having examined the register, I find, that in ten years, beginning with 1700, which includes the time mentioned in his account, there were 933 baptisms, and 821 burials. During this period the dissenters (except the quakers, of whom there were but few) buried in the church-yard, and were duly registered; and allowing 3 births and 2 burials to the quakers, the annual number, upon

upon an average, will be 96.3 baptisms, and 84.1 burials. In a like series of ten years, beginning with 1760, there are registered 774 baptisms, and 775 burials; but during this time the dissenters in general are not registered; and allowing for them 14 baptisms and 10 burials annually, the present state of the account will be 88.4 baptisms, and 87.5 burials.

After the small-pox had left the town in the year 1741, the inhabitants were found to be 3797; and after a visitation of the same kind in 1758, the people were numbered at 3458; but in 1775, an exact account having been taken, the whole number of householders was 838, and of inhabitants 3878, something more than four persons and a half to a house. The increase of inhabitants when the burials so nearly equal the births, must be attributed to the afflux of people from other places: wherefore the burials, as they now stand, are improper for making an estimate of the healthiness of the place. For, had the people risen to the present number, without such adventitious assistance, it is easy to prove, that the burials would have been fewer in proportion. Suppose ten in a year ought to be deducted on that account, the number of inhabitants to the average of annual burials will be as 50 to 1. This is a proof of what was advanced of the healthiness of the place, considered as a town, where intemperance and disorder are more prevalent than in country villages.

upon an average, will be at 3 paginas and 84.1
paginas. In like kind of ten years beginning
with 1700 there are reckoned 74 paginas and
7.1 paginas. But during this time the difference in
general was registered, and allowing for them
14 paginas and 10.1 paginas annually, the present
state of the account will be 88.4 paginas, and
2.5 paginas.

After the death of King James the first in the
year 1603, the number of people who were found in 1603
and after a variation on the same kind but 177, the
people were found to be 177.1 in 1771.
an exact account being taken, the whole
number of inhabitants was 177.1 in 1771.
habitant, and the number of the people was 177.1
lost and a part to a part of the people of
inhabitants who had been in nearly equal the
part, and the number of the people of people
from the place, and the number of the people as they
now shall be known, the making an estimate
of the number of the place. For had the
people been in the present number, and the last
estimate, the number of the people is given that the
people were in the place in proportion.
and the number of the people is to be added on
the number of the people of inhabitants to the
state of the number of the people will be as follows:
The number of the people was seven of the
inhabitants of the place, considered as a town,
where the number of the people is more pro-
portion than in country villages.

A P P E N D I X.

N U M B E R I.

King Henry the Fourth's Grant to the Men, &c. of Cirencester.

THE king, to all unto whom these presents shall come, greeting. Know ye that of our special grace, and for the good and laudable and acceptable services which the men of the town of Ciceter have performed, in resisting the malicious attempts of Thomas late earl of Kent, and John late earl of Salisbury, and other traitors and rebels, who had traiterously taken up arms against us and our crown, contrary to their allegiance; we do give and grant to the men aforesaid, all the goods and chattels, in whose hands soever they may be found, which did belong to the said late earls, and the other traitors, and were found in the said town when the said earls and other traitors were there arrested by the men aforesaid; excepting all gold and silver, and money, and vessels of gold or silver, or gilded, and except all jewels of all kinds; to hold unto the said men of our gift. In witness whereof, &c.

Given at Westminster the twenty eighth day of February,
1 H. 4.

The same Year, the King rewards them with another Concession.

THE king to all unto whom these presents shall come, greeting. Know ye that of our especial grace, and for the good service which our beloved liege-people and commons of the town of Cirencester, as well men as women, have performed unto us, in the taking of the earls of Kent and Salisbury, and of others their followers, in the late rebellion, do grant unto the men four does in season, to be delivered unto them by our chief forester, for the time being, or his deputy, out of our forest of Bradon; and also one hoghead of wine, to be received every year out of the port of our town of Bristol, by the hand of our officer therein for the time being. We also grant unto the women aforesaid six bucks, to be delivered them in right season, by our chief forester aforesaid, or his deputy, out of the
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forest afore said; and also one hoghead of wine, to be delivered to them out of the port of our said town of Bristol, by the hands of our officer therein for the time being. This grant to continue during our pleasure. In witness whereof, &c.

N U M B E R I. (*)

Difficult Words which occur in the Charters of Liberties explain'd, from Stevens's Supplement to the Monasticon, v. 2, p. 94.

SOC. That is, the suing of men in their own court, according to the custom of the kingdom.

SAC. Is the power of impleading and punishing transgressors in their court, because *sake* in *English* signifies *encheson* in *French*, (which is *occasion, cause, or reason*,) and it is said *for siche sake* (that is *for such sake or reason*) being the same as *quele encheson*, and *sake* is said for *forfeit*.

TOL. Imports, that you, and all your men, throughout all your homage lands, be exempt in all markets from toll, for things bought or sold.

THEAM. This is, that you have all the generation of your villains, with their services and chattles, wheresoever they shall be found in *England*: excepting if any one born in servitude, shall continue for a year and a day undisturb'd in any priviledg'd town, so that he be receiv'd into their company, or gild, and as one of them, by the same he shall be exempted from villainage.

INFANGETHEF. Is, that thieves or robbers, taken in your lordship, or fee, and convicted of their theft, be adjudg'd in your court.

OUTFANGETHEF. Is, that thieves or robbers, which belong to your land, or fee, if taken with a robbery out of your land or fee, be brought back to your court, and there try'd.

HAMSOKENE. That is, that you be exempt from amerciaments for entering houses violently and without leave, against the peace of our lord the king, and that you hold pleas of this sort of transgression committed on your land, in your court.

GRYTHEBRICHE. That is, the breach of the king's peace, for *gryth* in *English*, is *pax* in *Latin*, and *pees* in the *Roman*; *briche* in *English*, is *freynt* in the *Roman*.

BLODWYTE. That is, that you be exempt from amerciament for blood spilt, and that you hold pleas thereupon in your court, and that you have the amerciament arising from thence; because *wyte* in *English*, is the same as *injuria* in *Latin*.

PHILTWYTE.

PHILTWYTE. Is, that you be exempt from amerciaments for frays, and that you hold pleas of the same, in your court, and have the amerciaments thence arising; for *philt* in *English* is *medle* in the *Roman*.

PHLYTHWYTE. That you be exempt from contention and assemblies, and that you hold pleas thereof in your court, and have the amerciaments proceeding from the same; for *phlyth* in *English*, is *contentio* in *Latin*.

PORDWYCHE. Is that you be exempt from amerciament when any fugitive outlaw comes to the peace of our lord the king, either of his own accord, or upon licence.

PLEMENESFRITH. Is, that you have the chattles or amerciaments of a fugitive.

LECHERWITE. Is, that you take a fine of him that lies with a bond-woman born, without your leave.

CHILDWITE. That you take a fine from a bond-woman born, that is with child, who has lost her virginity without your leave.

PORSTALL. Is, that you be exempt from amerciaments for chattles seiz'd, either within or without your lands, and that you have and hold pleas concerning such cases so arrested within your lands, in your court, and the amerciaments arising from the same.

SCHOT. Is, that you be exempt from a certain custom, as of the common toll impos'd by the sheriff or his bailiffs.

GELDE. Is, that you be exempt from servile customs, which once us'd to be paid, as of *hornkilde*, and the like.

HITAGE, or CARRUAGE. Is, that you shall be exempt, if our lord the king should tax all the land by *carucates*.

DANEGELDE. That is, exempt from a custom us'd in another place, which the *Danes* once exacted in *England*.

HORNGELDE. That you be exempt from a certain custom exacted at fairs and markets.

WAPENTAKE. Is, that you be exempt from suit of the hundred, which is call'd *wapentake*.

LESTAGE. That is, exempt from a duty exacted at fairs and markets.

STALLAGE. Is exempt from a duty exacted for standings taken or assign'd in fairs and markets.

STHENG, or HEDWYNG. Is exemption from attachment in any court, and before any persons whatsoever, for trespasses presented and not avow'd.

MISHERYNG. That is, exempt from amerciaments for any trespasses whatsoever brought into court, without exemplification.

BURGBRICHE. Is discharg'd from any passing thro' cities or boroughs, against the peace.

AVERPAYE. Is exempt from paying a penny for average to our lord the king.

HUNDREDAT. Is exempt from paying the penny, or contributing to the hundred.

BORDALPANY. That is, exempt from the exaction us'd in markets, where they paid a half-penny for taking away their stalls.

BURGBOTE. Is exempt from contributing to the relief of the city, or borough, or for building of walls fallen.

BRUGEBOTE. Is exempt from contributing to build bridges.

THECLEPENY. Is exempt from tallage of the tenth for the council.

MUNDEBRYCHE. Is exempt from amerciaments for transgressions committed against our lord the king.

N U M B E R II.

A Grant from Henry de Hamptonel, Abbat of Cirencester, to John de Latton.

TO all christian people who shall either see or hear this present deed, Henry by divine permission, abbat of Cirencester, and the convent of that place, send health in our Lord. Know ye that we have granted to John de Latton and Isabel his wife, in form and under condition following, these several things hereafter specified, to receive every week, so long as they shall jointly live; Fourteen white loaves and nine gallons of beer, whereof five gallons of the beer shall be such as the convent useth, and the other four gallons shall be of the chaplains beer, and they shall receive one mess every day out of our kitchen, in like manner as our day officers do receive it from our house. Provided that if the said Isabel shall survive, that then and immediately from the death of the said John, one moiety of all above granted shall altogether cease. And in consideration of the aforesaid grant, the aforesaid John hath wholly released to us and to our church, and hath quit claimed for himself and his heirs for ever, all right and claim which he had or any way can have, with the reversion thereof, in all the lands and tenements, with all their appurtenances, which Walter father of the said John did hold by lease from us in Latton. And the said John and his heirs shall fully and intirely warrant the said lands and tenements to us and to our church, without any diminution whatsoever. And if it should happen, which we hope will never be, that the said John and Isabel shall any way be deficient in
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A P P E N D I X. v

the said warranty, or should lay claim, or pretend any right to the said tenements, that from thenceforth the said abbat and convent shall be for ever discharged from the performance of every part of this grant, without any pretence whatsoever. In witness whereof the parties abovesaid have interchangeably set their seals to this indenture.

Given at Cirencester, at the feast of the purification of the blessed Virgin, in the thirty third year of the reign of king Edward, son of king Henry.

N U M B E R I I I.

The Charter of King Edward the III^d, reciting the Foundation of the Priory of Cirencester in the County of Gloucester, and confirming the same.

THE king to archbishops, &c. We have inspected the charter of Henry the First, of famous memory, heretofore king of England, our progenitor, in these words: Henry king of England, to archbishops, bishops, abbats, priors, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, and all the sons of holy church established throughout England, greeting: Know all men, that I, by the consent and authority of Pope Innocent, of pious memory, and by the advice and common approbation of the archbishops and bishops, princes and barons of my kingdom, have given to God and the church of the blessed Mary of Cirencester, of which I was the unworthy founder, for the good of the souls of my parents and ancestors, and for the remission of my sins, and for the welfare and safety of my kingdom, and to Serlo the first abbat, and to all his successors, and to the regular canons serving God in that place, in pure alms, all the estate of Reimbald the priest, in lands and churches, and other things as followeth; to wit, two hides of land in the town of Cirencester, and the third part of the tolls of the market, which is held on Sunday in the several streets; and two parts of the tithes of the demesnes of Cirencester, and the whole tithe of all the rest of the parish; in Gloucestershire, eight hides of land in Preston, and the church thereof; one hide of land in Norcott, seven hides in Drifeild, four hides and one yard land in Amney, and the church thereof; two hides in Walle, which did belong to Balchi Daci, one hide in Elmundestan, one yard land and a wood in Wik, the church of Chiltonham, with the land thereof, and the mill, and the chapels, and all other appurtenances to the said church belonging; in Wiltshire

Wiltshire, nine hides in Latton and Eisy, and the churches of both those places with their land, and the chapel of Eaton which belongs to the church of Eisy; three houses in the town of Cricklade, and the church of Pevesy, with the lands, tithes and customs appertaining to the said church; the church in Avebiry, with the lands, chapels, tithes and customs appertaining to the said church; in Somersetshire, the church of Melborn, with the lands, chapels, tithes and other things belonging to the said church; the church of Frome, with the lands, chapels, tithes and all other things, whether woods or plains, appertaining to the said church; the church of Walon, with the lands, chapels, tithes and all customs, whether woods or plains, appertaining to the said church; in Dorsetshire, ten hides of land in woods and meadow in Puley; in Berkshire, the church of Scriveham, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all other customs appertaining to the said church; the church of Cocheham, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all other things appertaining to the said church; the church of Bray, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all things appertaining to the said church; ten hides in Eiston; eleven hides and three yard lands in Hatcheburne, and the church of the same, with the chapels and tithes of the other Hatcheburn; in Oxfordshire, one hide of land in wood and plains, and one mill in Boicot; the church of Passeham in Buckinghamshire, with the lands, tithes and all things appertaining to the said church; in Northamptonshire, the church of Rowel, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all customs belonging to the said church; the church of Bristoke, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all customs, whether in woods or plains, appertaining to the said church; three houses in Winton: And I have further granted to the said church of Cirencester, of my own demesnes, for ever, one hide of land in Cirencester, called Scereve-Hide, to make orchards, copses, and a place for a water-mill; and the abbat, Serlo, with my licence, has exchanged two messuages of that hide with the burgessees of Cirencester, for the conveniency of the priests: I have also granted a water-course, and the wood called Aceley, with the forest, and all its lands; and I retain to myself nothing out of the wood besides my hunting, and the abbat may not plow up any part of it.

We moreover ordain, concerning the estates belonging to Reimbald, that whatsoever part of it the bishop of Salisbury hath, shall remain to him during his life, but after his death it shall return to the proper use and demesne of the canons regular: We ordain the like concerning the lands held by William Fitz Warin

Warin the sheriff; and the like of the lands held by Nicholas, nephew of the bishop of Winton; and the like concerning the lands which the secular canons held by their prebends: We do also grant to the said church, throughout all their possessions, soc and sac, toll, theam, infang-theof, and all other liberties, immunities, customs and privileges, in as free manner as the said church held the same in the reign of king Edward the confessor, or in the reign of my father or brother, or in my time; and as free as any other eleemosynary lands in the kingdom are held; therefore I approve, and by my royal authority do corroborate this my grant and concession, and by the power given to me by God, I decree, that the said church shall for ever enjoy the same; and I declare that I reserve those lands so given in alms, in my own hand, and under my protection, as if those alms-lands had been my own proper gift.

Witnesses, William, archbishop of Canterbury; Turstan, archbishop of York; Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Henry, bishop of Winchester; Alexander, bishop of Lincoln; Jeoffry, bishop of Durham; Nigell, bishop of Ely; Robert, bishop of Hereford; John, bishop of Rochester; Robert, keeper of the seal; Robert de Vere, Miles Gloec. Robert Doiley, Hugh Bigott, Robert de Curcy, and Pagan, the son of John; and Eustace and William his brothers; and William de Albia Britone.

Done at Burne, as I was crossing the seas, in the year of our Lord 1133, and in the 33d year of our reign.

We therefore the said grants, &c. do confirm, &c.

Given under the hand of the king at Berwick upon Tweed, on the first day of July.

N U M B E R IV.

The Confirmation of the Grants to the Abbey of Cirencester by King John.

JOHAN, by the grace of God, king of England, &c. to archbishops, &c. greeting: It is becoming our dignity, and is necessary for our salvation, that we should defend, keep and preserve those holy and religious places which were founded by our great grandfather, king Henry the First, and were confirmed by king Henry the Second, our father; therefore we give and grant, and by this present charter confirm to God, and to the holy church of St. Mary of Cirencester, and to the canons regular serving God
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in that place, in free and perpetual alms, for the good of the soul of the aforesaid king Henry, who was founder thereof, and for the soul of our father aforementioned, and for the souls of king Richard our brother, and queen Anne our mother, and of our brethren and all others departed this life in the true faith, all our manor of Cirencester, with all its appurtenances; with the town of Minchey, which is a member of the said manor, with the seven hundreds belonging to the said manor and farm, with all their appurtenances; to hold of us and our successors, yielding and paying 30*l.* yearly for all services, at our exchequer, at the feast of St. Michael: And know ye, that for the good of our soul, and all others above mentioned, we have given, released, and quit claimed, in perpetual alms, to the honour of St. Mary, and to our said canons of Cirencester serving God, forty shillings yearly rent, which the said manor was accustomed to pay, so that for the future they shall pay only a rent of 30*l.* as aforesaid; and this we have done, that the canons of our demesnes, who are so named herein, may the more freely, quietly and safely serve God, in praying for us, for our father, and the rest abovementioned; wherefore we will, &c. We will also and command, that they enjoy that manor as fully and quietly, with all its liberties and free customs, as king Richard, our brother, enjoyed the same, when it was in his hands, except pleas of the crown, and our forest of Minchy, which we reserve to ourselves, as the charter of king Richard, our brother, can testify.

Witnesses, Robert, earl of Leicester; William, earl of Pembroke; William de Albeniaco, Garine de Glapum, Peter Estokes, and many others.



